

NOVEMBER 1987

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

MAGAZINE



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CONTENTS



On Veterans Day, Americans honor the men and women who have served their country in all the nation's wars. Shown here are four medals representing the four wars the United States has fought in this century. In no particular order, they are for World War I, World War II (ETO), Korean and Vietnam War service. The others shown are the ribbons for the other 20th Century campaign medals, plus two additional WWII theater medal ribbons. Anyone who has been credited with only one of all these is eligible for VFW membership.

- A One-Horse Town** by Peggy Nichols Nash. Veterans Day in her small Texas town made the writer remember all the good things about the community and the people who live there, as well as the men she knew who left to serve their country. She writes that she would not trade "one day of my memories for 40 acres of downtown Dallas." 22

- Chapel Keeps Memories Alive** by Sgt. Kiki Bryant. Stained glass windows of the post chapel at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy, for the Army's Southern European Task Force and 5th Support Command honor the 5th Army's fallen soldiers in the campaigns fought in Italy during World War II. Each of the windows contains the patches of the divisions. 26

- 1918: Three Who Are Remembered** by Jeffrey Geiger. Three men from Boston who served in World War I, one in Navy aviation and the other two in the infantry, symbolize to many the sacrifices Americans made to bring that war to a halt. The three were killed. Veterans Day has its origin in World War I that ended on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. 30

- Heroes at the VA** by Bonner Day. The VA numbers among its thousands of employees several who were awarded the Medal of Honor. "In their work at the Veterans Administration, recipients of the Medal of Honor share with fellow employees a strong sense of mission," the writer begins his article. 32

- Homecoming Site Rich in Americana** by James K. Anderson. Albany, N.Y., where Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock's homecoming celebration was held, has many reminders of American history. The area has played a vital role in the development of the U.S., and the enthusiasm radiated at the homecoming is sure to set the tone for the VFW in 1987-88. 36

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**1968. It was a dangerous time to be young.
An impossible time to be a hero. This is the story of
the other side of war...
the war at home.**



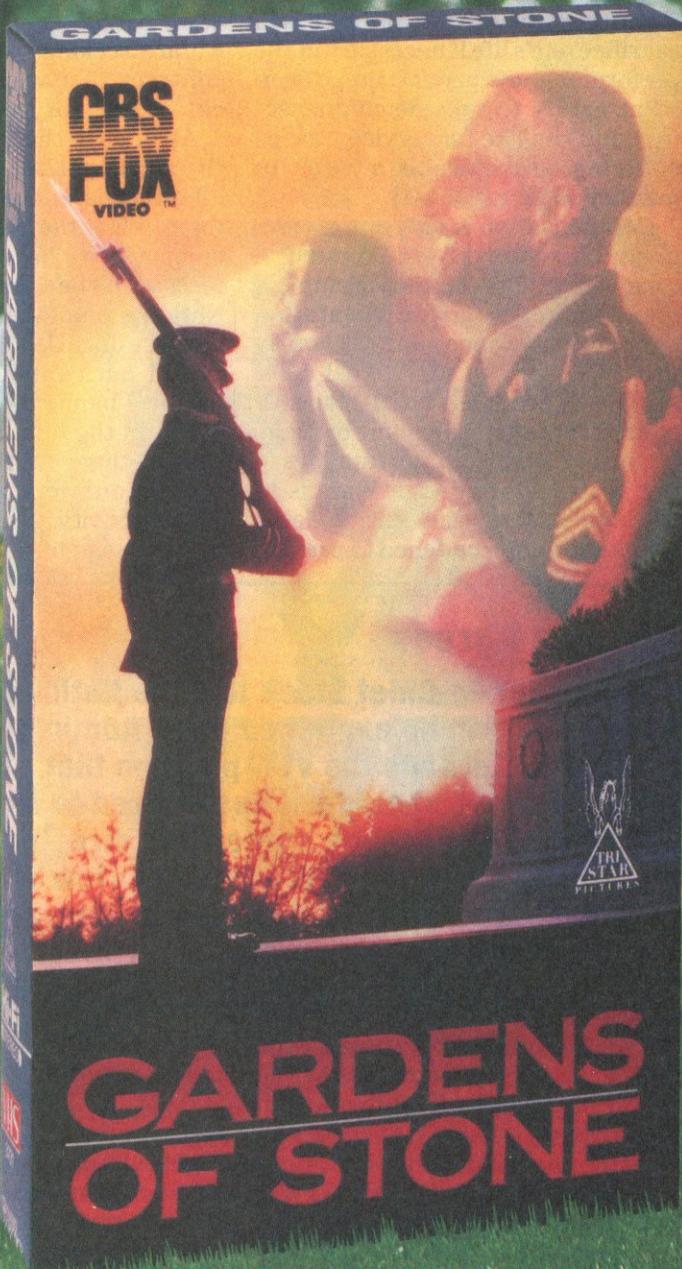
James Caan



Anjelica Huston



James Earl Jones Mary Stuart Masterson



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There's the war-toughened sergeant who passionately longs to train soldiers for fighting in Vietnam, but is assigned to the elite Old Guard. His beautiful girlfriend, a Washington Post reporter who's fervently against the war. The zealous soldier the sergeant takes under his wing. And the young woman who learns the pain of being an Army wife.

Their stories are poignantly told in GARDENS OF STONE, Francis Coppola's perceptive and moving film that stars James Caan, Anjelica Huston, James Earl Jones and Mary Stuart Masterson. GARDENS OF STONE takes a different look at the Vietnam era—a drama that captures the anguishing effect of the war on the relationships of the men and women at home.

TRI-STAR PICTURES PRESENTS A MICHAEL I. LEVY PRODUCTION "GARDENS OF STONE"

JAMES CAAN ANJELICA HUSTON JAMES EARL JONES D.B. SWEENEY DEAN STOCKWELL
MARY STUART MASTERSON MUSIC BY CARMINE COPPOLA EDITED BY BARRY MALKIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER DEAN TAVOURARIS
JORDAN CRONENWETH, A.S.C. CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DAVID VALDES EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STAN WESTON AND JAY EMMETT AND FRED ROOS
NICHOLAS PROFFITT SCREENPLAY BY RONALD BASS PRODUCED BY MICHAEL I. LEVY AND FRANCIS COPPOLA

BASED UPON THE NOVEL BY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
THE NOVEL BY
JORDAN CRONENWETH, A.S.C.
NICHOLAS PROFFITT
RATED R

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DELPHI FROM ZOETROPE STUDIOS

A TRI-STAR RELEASE



Entitlements, Not Benefits



Earl L. Stock, Jr.
VFW Commander-in-Chief

Veterans Day is an ideal time for all of us to look back to the days when we wore our nation's uniform, proudly serving and confident that service would be recognized by a grateful people.

For each generation of veterans since even before the beginning of the 20th Century, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been ready and able to assure that the service rendered in defense of the United States would not be forgotten either by the American people or by those who represent them in Washington.

Over the years, the word "benefits" has been allowed to creep into our language to describe the form the people's recognition of veterans' service has taken.

This is unfortunate, because the only ones to benefit from the time a person puts into the Armed Forces or is injured in the line of duty — whether Stateside or in battle — is the public that person is protecting while in uniform.

The public benefits because the sacrifices made by Armed Forces personnel assure the freedom to live in this great country in dignity and the opportunity to realize one's full potential.

On the other hand, the so-called veterans' benefits are in reality entitlements and the rights flowing from them. They are entitlements

because implicit in entrance into the Armed Forces is a contract between the government and the man or woman who is joining either as a volunteer or a wartime draftee.

Entering the service, one agrees to sacrifice one's life if necessary in the performance of duty and the government agrees to provide compensation and the like for servicepersons suffering disabilities as a result of military service.

Compensation is only one entitlement. There are others: VA medical care; veterans' preference in employment; educational or vocational training assistance and the other provisions of the various GI Bills, and VA-guaranteed home loans. Of course, these are only some of them.

One of our most important jobs in the Veterans of Foreign Wars is to work to assure that entitlements are expanded, broadened to provide

One thing I emphasized was that during this VFW year we would lay stress on our contention that veterans' programs are entitlements and not benefits.

We are not seeking benefits, but we are seeking the fulfillment of a contract that was made when we entered military service.

All of us in the VFW work toward the single goal of serving veterans, all veterans, and we are doing it as a team. With the chairmen and vice chairmen we have on our committees, with the team we have in the National chairs and with the team we have on all levels of our organization, I am confident that 1987-88 will be a banner year.

But in the final analysis, the success of the VFW this year — in all areas of our work: membership; program activity; service to veterans, and passage of veterans' legislation

Turnage Agrees

Commander-in-Chief Stock told the National Council of Administration he explained to VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage the VFW position that "entitlements" should not be referred to as "benefits." Later, he said, Turnage agreed and directed VA staffers to adopt the VFW's point of view when writing or speaking on what is available to veterans from the VA as a result of their service.

the widest range of coverage for the largest number of veterans. At the same time, we ceaselessly work with Congress to tailor entitlements to meet the changing needs of veterans.

As I have said so often, the VFW is veterans working for veterans.

Following our 88th National Convention, National committees met in Kansas City and Washington to work on our programs for 1987-88 and to formulate our goals, based on the resolutions the delegates adopted at the Convention.

by Congress — depends on the individual member. The reason for this is that the VFW is a grassroots organization. Its strength lies in the 10,000 Posts at home and abroad and in the individuals who form the basis of these Posts.

In other words, you. Without you, the VFW would be nothing. So on this Veterans Day, resolve to work even harder. Your efforts will be rewarded by the knowledge that you have done your best so that we all may do our best. ■



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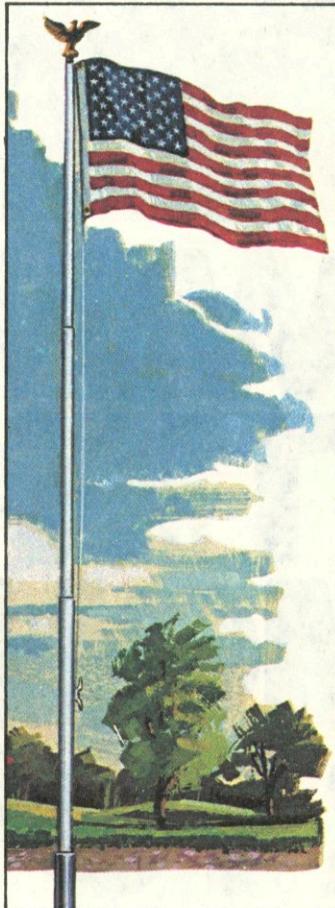
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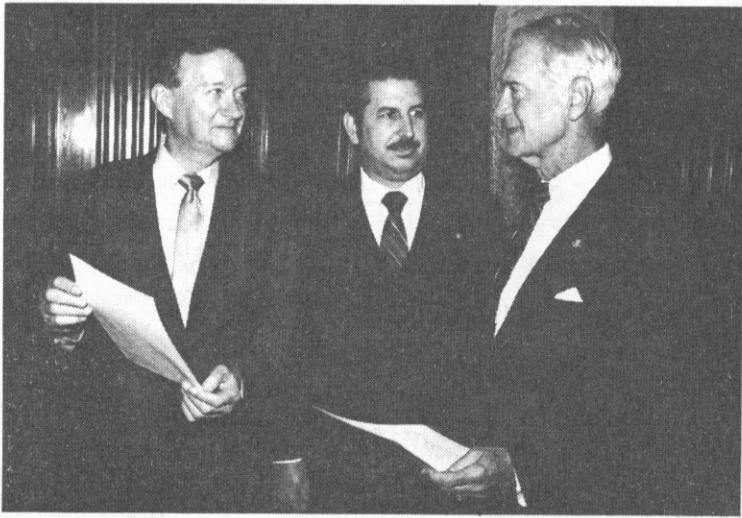
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Charles F. Ball, Jr., Director VFW-PAC (center) gives Representative G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery, Democrat - Mississippi (right) and John P. Hammerschmidt, Republican - Arkansas (left) campaign contributions on behalf of the VFW-PAC for their dedication to veterans entitlements and a strong national defense.

WHAT IS YOUR VFW-PAC?

A **Political Action Committee (PAC)** is the only way for the **Veterans of Foreign Wars**, as a group, to take an active role in federal elections. Only through the **VFW-PAC** can our members collectively express support for, contribute to, or spend money on behalf of candidates for federal offices.

The 4,000 plus federally registered PAC's have a tremendous impact on our election process. The **VFW-PAC** is a perfect example of how one political action committee can play a key role in a campaign.

All **2 million VFW members** across the United States are a part of key congressional districts which can have an impact on who does or does not get elected to Congress.

You can be a part of the impact. You can have your voice heard on Capitol Hill. All you need to do is become a part of the **VFW Special Interest Group**.

Special interest group - a group of people sharing the same concerns or beliefs on specific issues. Every individual in this country is a part of several "special interest groups" — senior citizens, unemployed people, disabled veterans, etc. The VFW itself is a special interest group.

As a part of this special interest group, you can help by contributing to the election action fund. You will not be "buying votes," as some people believe. The contributions made by the **VFW-PAC** are given to legislators who have already proven that they support the VFW's position on issues of concern by their voting records on roll call votes. There is nothing to buy, we just say "thank you."

So, an accurate description of a **Political Action Committee** is: A group of individuals concerned about the same issues who make voluntary personal contributions to help elect candidates sharing their positions and interest on issues of concern.

Come on . . . share your concern for **Veterans benefits** and a **Strong National Defense** and join the **VFW-PAC** today!

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WASHINGTON WIRE

LEGISLATIVE

Recent Testimony: The VFW recently appeared before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to comment and offer suggestions on how to improve VA insurance programs. At the hearing, the VFW voiced its opposition to the VA's proposal to consolidate the insurance office at Ft. Snelling, Minn., with the office in Philadelphia.

Legislation, introduced by Rep. Tim Penney (Minn.) to prevent consolidation, has been approved by the House.

The VFW also directed the committee's attention to mortgage insurance for certain disabled veterans. Too often, veterans suffering from a service-connected disability and not entitled to special adapted-housing allowance cannot obtain mortgage protection life insurance other than high-risk insurance which carries very high premium rates.

All too often, these rates are beyond the veterans' financial capability. VFW voiced its support for the introduction and passage of legislation that would provide affordable mortgage insurance to this special group of veterans. It would allow them to provide their families with the security of a mortgage-free home if they should die.

In closing, the VFW made another suggestion that could improve the RH insurance program and better serve the service-connected veteran. RH identifies certain National Service Life Insurance policies that have been issued since April 25, 1951, to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

This is the only VA insurance currently being issued. Application must be made within one year from the date of notification by the VA that a disability is service connected. Normally, the VA notifies veterans of their service-connected status by mailing an award letter. The date shown on this notice is the date used to establish the one-year eligibility period. The VFW told the committee it believes a serious problem exists in the timeliness of notification.

VA Regional Offices periodically send listings of eligible veterans to the appropriate insurance division, which then in turn notifies the veterans of eligibility for RH National Service Life Insurance. Often the VA Regional Offices delay notifying the insurance division in a timely fashion, and some VAROs forget even to forward the name of eligibles. As a result, veterans are sometimes not given adequate time to make an informed decision on this valuable insurance and sometimes eligible veterans aren't even notified of their eligibility.

The VFW suggested an effort be made to ensure veterans are notified immediately of their eligibility for RH National Service Life Insurance and this

could be best accomplished by the originating VA Regional Office. A mechanism could be put in place to trigger automatically an insurance eligibility letter when the regional office generates the service-connected award letter. This action would give the eligible veteran the full one-year grace period as provided under law to make this important decision.

At another hearing before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, the VFW was asked to state its position on proposed legislation addressing veterans' employment and the administration of various employment programs.

The VFW disagreed with the language used in Section 2 of the draft legislation which describes the role of a Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) virtually as that of an intake clerk. The VFW recommended this section be rewritten to give the LVER position its proper emphasis and allow a clear representation of the LVER's mission. The LVER job description should place emphasis on the supervisory role and target responsibility to promote veteran employment within the community at every opportunity.

The job description also should highlight case management and counseling duties and include a requirement to visit outplaced Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs) to oversee adequately their activities. Further refinements should require the monitoring of discrimination complaints and a monitoring and reporting responsibility for federal job listings and placements.

While the draft bill establishes a formula to control LVER staffing, the VFW outlined what it believed would be a better formula and urged its implementation also recommending that there should be no fewer than 1,600 LVERs nationwide and setting a floor on the minimum number of LVERs allowed by law.

In closing, the VFW told the committee that for the fourth year in a row the program is subject to losing an estimated 200 LVERs due to lack of funding. This continuous effort to reduce service to veterans is unacceptable to the VFW.

SERVICE

VA Warns Debtors: Beginning last Sept. 1, the VA began a mass mailing to warn delinquent debtors of the possibility that money owed the VA would be offset by the Internal Revenue Service against any income tax refunds due.

This is the third straight year the Veterans Admin-

WASHINGTON WIRE

istration has participated in this IRS income tax offset program as part of its effort to manage indebtedness to the VA.

Veterans or their dependents receiving that announcement from the VA will be encouraged to make repayment arrangements to prevent the IRS from effecting an offset against any income tax refunds. During its 1987 fiscal year, the VA netted approximately \$62.5 million in collections and offsets as a result of its warning.

Those who dispute a VA indebtedness notification should contact their VFW Department Service Officer and review their options to appeal. Further, if a debt to the VA is causing severe hardship, the Department Service Officer can assist in negotiating a less burdensome rate of repayment. Any doubt or question regarding indebtedness to the VA should be referred to the Department Service Officer.

VA Home Loan Trouble? High interest rates in the early 1980s and setbacks in the agriculture and oil industries have resulted in a rise in recent years in defaults on VA-guaranteed loans.

When a veteran defaults on a VA-guaranteed loan, the VA may have to pay the lender a claim of 60% of the loan amount up to \$27,500. For that reason, the VA wants to take every possible step to help veterans if they have fallen behind in their GI home loan mortgage payments.

The VA recommends, as the first step for a veteran experiencing mortgage payment difficulties, to contact the lender and attempt to make arrangements that will prevent foreclosure. If an agreement with the lender cannot be reached, a veteran can seek assistance from the nearest VA Regional Office. VA counselors, after reviewing a veteran's financial situation, can sometimes develop a payment plan acceptable to the mortgage company.

As an alternative, VA counselors may advise the veteran to sell the property to protect his equity. The VA states, and the VFW agrees, that some foreclosures can be avoided through agreements with lenders or veteran-initiated sale of property. Therefore, if someone you know has been strapped with high interest rates and a job setback, he should contact the VA as soon as practicable and take advantage of that agency's assistance. Your Department Service Officer can arrange an appointment with a VA counselor.

SECURITY

Forward Movement on POW/MIAs: After nearly a year, Vietnam appears to be moving forward again to account for U.S. POW/MIAs. Presidential emissary Gen. John W. Vessey, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Robert C. Kingston, former

commander of the Joint Casualty Resolution Center, both VFW Life Members, met with Vietnamese officials in early August.

During the first round of negotiations, the Vietnamese agreed to resume technical talks with U.S. experts and to speed up resolution of the issue. In turn, the U.S. agreed to explore humanitarian issues raised by Hanoi.

Recent activity suggests the Vietnamese are complying with their promise to accelerate progress. Only a few weeks after the Vessey visit, Vietnamese met with U.S. technical experts to consider the 97 discrepancy cases, involving 97 airmen who the U.S. believes reached the ground alive when their aircraft were shot down but about whom no information has been received from Vietnam, and other issues. The Vietnamese told the technical experts that the remains of three Americans had been located. The remains were turned over to a U.S. military team that went to Hanoi in mid-September.

The humanitarian issues Vietnam brought up with Vessey were discussed in a joint U.S.-Vietnamese meeting held at the same time as the technical talks. A medical team of U.S. civilian experts, led by Fred Downs, VA director of Prosthetic and Sensory Aid Services, met with the Vietnamese over four days. In addition to discussions with the Vietnamese, the team visited a factory where orthopedic devices, artificial limbs and rehabilitation equipment are produced and fitted. The team is preparing a report on its discussions, but indications are that the Vietnamese want humanitarian assistance in treating infectious disease and rehabilitating the disabled.

The U.S. has not eased current restrictions on trade with Vietnam in response to this humanitarian issue. Vietnam remains on the list of countries with which trade is restricted.

The Trading With the Enemy Act prohibits imports or exports from Vietnam except for certain humanitarian aid that must get a special government export license. When asked whether the U.S. would be willing to trade economic aid to Vietnam in return for MIA information, the State Department denied the Administration plans a direct assistance to Vietnam on the disabled problem or sending U.S. funds through non-government organizations. "The MIAs are a separate issue which stands on its own humanitarian merits," it said. "We expect Hanoi will treat it as such."

This recent activity might be explained as a renewed attempt by Vietnam to break out of the political and economic isolation as a result of the unresolved POW/MIA issue and the Cambodian occupation. The cutoff of trade with other Southeast Asian countries and the West has turned Vietnam into an economic basket case.

What America Means

As I sat, a disabled, but still a very proud American, watching the 200th Birthday Parade in celebration of our Constitution, it sure made this old vet of WW II feel good to see all the Americans who took part in this great event, that really love America and what we stand for. It just overwhelmed me.

The parade has made me realize where we stand today, and we can't let our forefathers or our citizens down, now or ever. Be thankful every day for what we have and preserve it.

Happy birthday, America. Thank God I was born here and able to serve my country. God bless America, the land I love. — *Vernal M. Babcock, 156 Hillside Ave., Box 66, Tuxedo, N.Y. 10987.*

The Big Sting

Pickpockets are not the only ones who can distract and focus people's attention elsewhere. Politicians distract your attention from their records of increasing spending, taxes, debt, red tape and aiding and abetting the enemy. They can convince the voters that billion-dollar Deficitgate and trillion-dollar Debtgate just happen and they are not responsible. It is very strange that the voters' attention is being focused on diddling peccadilles instead of on the enormous diddling of the taxpayers. They could ignore and deny freedom of speech next. — *John F. Sisson, 7464 Reed St., Arvada, Colo. 80003.*

Support Retiree Bill

Now the time has come to aid your own cause. Rep. Michael Bilirakis has introduced HR 303 to amend Section 3104 of Title 38 of the United States Code to permit certain service-connected disabled veterans who are retired members of the Armed Forces to receive compensation concurrently with retired pay without deduction from either. It is your responsibility to support this bill by writing or contacting your Representative in Congress for support as cosponsor of this bill. Be courteous and explain how the passage of the bill would affect your

livelihood because of your disability. Cost should not be the deciding factor in cosponsoring the bill. It would also provide needed medical coverage for the disabled military retiree. — *Ralph M. Boisvert, 4212 19th Way E., New Port Richey, Fla. 34655.*

Rebuts Turnage

This is in rebuttal to Administrator Turnage's article ("Facing Facts About Atomic Veterans," September). Servicepeople from 1945 to 1962 have to prove beyond a shadow of doubt diseases caused by radiation exposure. What about servicepeople during the late 1960s and early 1970s who handled hazardous waste and worked on nuclear reactors, removing protective metal shieldings? There is no mention of these people who keep our fleet operational. Here, too, you have to prove beyond a shadow of doubt diseases are caused by these repeated exposures. Any comments to me on this matter are welcome. A special thanks to the VFW and all others who support the Atomic Veterans Act of 1987 HR 1811. — *Jessie E. Salyers, Rt. 1, Box 824, Philadelphia, Tenn. 37845.*

Aids Veterans

Hospital chairman for Post 420 and MOC Pup Tent 33, Saratoga, N.Y., and a VAVS deputy for more than 20 years, I save coupons from Chesterfield and Raleigh cigarettes, as well as S & H stamps. I turn them in and get the money and use it to buy electric razors, TVs, shaving cream and other toilet articles. I do not take anything for my benefit in anyway and pay the shipping cost out of my own pocket. With these coupons, I have raised over \$7,000 to help the hospitalized patients. I have used the money to buy other things to raffle to raise money, so in all, I can say I have raised about \$15,000 with the help of these coupons. I need your help so I can do more things for our hospitalized veterans, and now I am asking for some help. — *Floyd E. Pickett, 3 Mountain View Lane, Glens Falls, N.Y. 12801.*

continued on page 14



Official publication of the
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Published monthly except July

VFW OBJECTIVES

To insure the national security through maximum military strength
To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans
To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live

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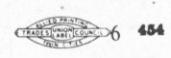
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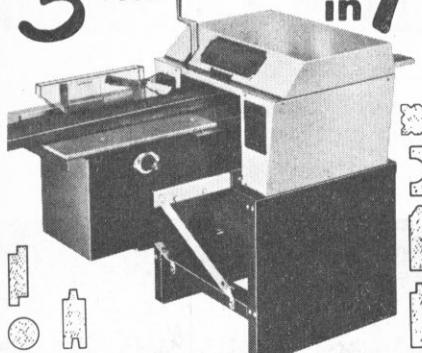


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Offer not valid in California.

MAIL CALL

continued from page 12

Another Challenger

We at Post 2199 have as a member Joe Almo, 92, who has belonged to the VFW since 1921. He has an outstanding record. He helped organize Post 367 in 1921 and Post 2199 in 1935. He bowls a good game two to three days a week. — Ralph Dotson, 1909 Clement St., Joliet, Ill. 60435.

'Owes Me Nothing'

I would like to respond to the letter of Saint E. Menetre in Mail Call (September). I, too, spent almost three years in the U.S. Navy during WW II. I spent time in combat, including an unfortunate encounter with some shrapnel at Okinawa. My country owes me nothing! That was a small price to pay for the privilege of living in the best country on earth. Three years is less than 5% of my lifetime, and if that will buy me my membership in the good old U.S.A., that's probably the best bargain I ever made. — Cliff Gritter, 2122 Nelson, S.E., Grand Rapids, Mich. 49507.

Wants 623d Connection

I am assembling a historical profile of a WC-57 command car built by Dodge in 1943. Its first assignment was to Allied Forces in North Africa in support of "Operation Torch" (November 1942 — May 1943). Immediately following Rommel's defeat, the 623d Ordnance Base Automotive Maintenance Battalion arrived at Oran, Algeria, to set up a motor base shop. The shop was designed and set up by General Motors for volume production for the reconditioning and repair of vehicle components previously dismantled in the field. The motor from this vehicle was rebuilt at this facility in February, 1944. The unit history of the 623d at the National Archives gives no account of shop operations. I would like to correspond with someone from the 623d who worked in the shop and who is willing to share his recollections of the shop itself, its functions and its area of operation. — David B. Thompson, P.O. Box 599, Sandy Hook, Conn. 06482.

Thanks Post 1380

Last week, a helicopter that we maintain had mechanical problems and landed in a field next to VFW Post 1380, Lancaster, Ohio. For the next couple of days, the members fielded phone calls, let us use the phone, ran messages back and forth to our mechanic and in general, bent over backwards to help.

It is not easy to work on a helicopter in the field, but with their help, we were able to repair it enough to fly to the Lancaster Airport so that further repairs could be made.

In the course of events, one of the members with the initials of W.R.V. was kind enough to lend his wrench. With all this confusion when we left, we ended up back in St. Louis with the wrench. We sent the wrench back to W.R.V. and conveyed apologies for all the aggravation and sincere thanks for all the help. Our thanks to VFW Post 1380. — Kay H. Morgan, A & S Helicopters, Inc., Cahokia, Ill.

Author's Query

Ever hitchhike anywhere during your service days and have an unusual story or anecdote as a result of this experience? If so, I am collecting stories for a research project, and I would like to hear yours. — Joe H. Wilson, 131 S. 29th St. (Rear), Belleville, Ill. 62223.

Discipline Rowdies

In her letter (Mail Call, September), Brenda Reed Sutton states she felt the "students used inappropriate behavior" at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

These students are a result of a lack of proper upbringing and have not learned to respect the rights of others. There is a generation gap. This gap should be closed between the foot and the buttocks.

I saw these same disgusting actions in Arlington Cemetery three years ago at President Kennedy's grave and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

There are many good youngsters. It

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MAIL CALL

continued from page 14

is too bad these rowdies can't be removed by the scruff of their neck, but "one can't frustrate these little darlings."

I, too, feel the memorial should be a place for peace and quiet so that one can be with one's thoughts, memories and prayers. — *Henry H. King, 8449 Kennedy Circle, Warren, Mich. 48093.*

Raps N.Y. Senate Unit

The New York State Senate Veterans Committee passed a bill providing \$10,000 to buy POW/MIA flags to be flown outside municipal buildings, but the Ways and Means Committee killed the bill because of the \$10,000 price tag. Where is the logic behind this defeat considering the surplus of \$900 million this state has. I wonder if anybody on the Ways and Means Committee understands the word "sacrifice" or could visualize being held against his or her will, with no one caring. I'd like to know if any of them put it on the line? — *James F. Meehan, Jr. Vice Commander, Post 8691, Washingtonville, N.Y. 10992.*

PTSD Angers

I am disturbed by the article on so-called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the September issue.

I wish the eggheads in ivory towers would spend some of their grant money to study the percentage of alcohol and drug abuse among com-

bat soldiers as compared to rear echelon troops. In the field with the 101st, we did good to get drinking water and C rations. We drank plenty of beer in the base camps for a few days, then back to the field for weeks. We had a tough job to do under rotten conditions, and like American GIs in every other war, we never considered doing it in other than an exemplary manner. In contrast, my year in Saigon allowed me to observe a lot of rear echelon types who lived in good barracks and had soft non-combat jobs.

The 2.8 million Vietnam Era vets were a cross section of America and many (perhaps as many as 6% or 8%) were dopeheads and deadbeats. Most of these were dopeheads and deadbeats before they were drafted, and virtually all of them would have been dopeheads and deadbeats even if they had never seen Vietnam. Very few of these saw any real combat.

A lot of cry babies and losers are trying to blame Vietnam for their weakness of character and lack of ambition, laziness, and incompetence in life in general. Most of these folks were born nerds, had poor role models, other nerds for peer groups and family members. They did not develop terminal antisocial stupidity 10 years after combat like pimples in adolescence or something. The very thought is ludicrous and asinine and another of many insults to the honor-

able men who had the privilege of fighting America's Communist enemies.

The nurses who wrote the article obviously read books by people who had never been to Vietnam and never seen combat either. Combat does indeed change you, but the effects are most serious the day you leave the field and fade with time. I no longer hit the deck and yell "incoming" every time lightning strikes or a car backs fires.

I speak only for myself and not for all Vietnam veterans. I do not ask for a parade down Main Street, and I already have plenty of medals from a grateful nation. But please stop castigating me as a drug-crazed psychotic with nothing to contribute to society. I've paid my dues and it is unfair.

—*Dean Allen, Sr., P.O. Box 2362, Texas City, Texas 77592.* (The writer, a Life Member of Post 2362, is a veteran of the 2nd Division during the Korean War and two tours in Vietnam, one with the 101st Airborne and one with the MPs. The name of one of the co-authors of the article was inadvertently given incorrectly. It should have been Susan L. Boykoff. The list of references on which the material was based may be obtained from her at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans' Hospital, 2500 Overlook Terrace, Madison, Wis. 53705.)

NOW HEAR THIS

Review Vietvet Study

Chairmen of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee have asked for a scientific review of a recently-released study that revealed a significantly higher death rate from lung cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma among Marines who served in Vietnam when compared to their Marine counterparts who did not serve in Vietnam. No such differences were reported in a similar comparison of Army personnel.

Rep. G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery and Sen. Alan Cranston, in a letter to the director of the Office of Tech-

nology Assessment, requested that OTA scientists review the study for scientific validity and report their findings to the VA committees. OTA is the Congressional scientific advisory body.

"We would also appreciate identification of any specific findings discussed in the report which warrant follow-up investigation or analysis," they wrote. "The findings are valid only if the process by which they were reached is valid," said Montgomery, who added that his committee's response in the matter "depends greatly" on the results of the OTA analysis.

The VA study compared the mortality records of approximately 50,000 veterans, half of whom served in Vietnam, half of whom did not. The study reported that Marines who served in Vietnam had a 58% higher rate of lung cancer and a 110% higher rate of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma than their counterparts who served elsewhere.

Though the chemical defoliant Agent Orange is mentioned in the report as a suspect, the study was not designed to investigate exposure to the herbicide nor does it explain the cause of the statistical differences.



Seals Sales Underway

Now marking its 50th anniversary as the VFW National Home's only annual fundraiser, the Seals Appeal is now underway, said Home Secretary Treasurer Joe Epling.

National Home officials are using last year's donor list to raise daily operating funds through the Seals' sale that provides about a third of the Home's yearly budget, he said.

"The Seals Appeal began 50 years ago," Epling said. "The original idea was to replace revenue lost when sufficient National Home Life Memberships weren't sold to generate operational revenues. The same is true today, but we do things a little differently now."

The changes, Epling explained, are that printing, mailing and data input are now handled by a professional, direct-mail corporation, and donations are received and counted by a local bank.

"These changes were necessary and beneficial, because they keep our fund-raising costs to a minimum," said Epling, a VFW Life Member, the Department of Michigan's Surgeon and the District 6 Judge Advocate. "We have once again targeted persons who have contributed to the children before because, statistics show, they are the ones most likely to contribute through the Seals Program again."

Statistics derived from a 1986 donor survey also indicate that most of those who have given in the past are active VFW or Ladies Auxiliary members, have contributed to more than one VFW cause and feel their money directly supports the children and families of veterans.

"Those, plus the leaders, are the ones who will initially receive the new 50th Anniversary Seals," Epling said. That, however, does not prohibit others or organizations from requesting Seals.

"Contributors desiring Seals can write to the National Home for them," he said. "Those wanting to respond to the Seals Appeal can send their dona-



HIGH ON THE HOG — Tami Norton, a 13-year-old living in the Kansas House, leans against one of her hogs entered in Eaton County 4-H Fair recently. Norton, whose family is sponsored by Post 7625, in Medicine Lodge, Kans., did not win in the swine competition but placed fifth in goat showmanship. Fifteen National Home children captured 17 honors in the annual 4-H event. (Photo by Danny Layne)

tions directly to us at PO Box 4004, Lansing, Mich. 48901," he added.

National Home officials have no established price for a sheet of Seals; contribution amounts are determined by each donor. The amounts vary, Epling said, because donations are received from individuals and from Posts and Auxiliaries collecting them.

"We have received donations supporting the National Home children through the Seals Appeal from people and Posts around the world," the National Home's Secretary Treasurer said. "All Seals donations help the children because these donations represent a large part of the money we use to pay the bills." ■

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VETERAN VIEWS

Vets Earn More

By Joe Curreri

Should I join the military service and learn a trade or try the work force now?" Adults often ponder this question when they graduate from high school or otherwise finish their education.

The military is a good place to start," say two Temple University researchers who recently completed a study assessing the economic payoff of military service to veterans when they enter the civilian labor market.

"Opting for a stint in the service is not a career penalty," says Prof. Paul J. Andrisani, who, with Prof. Thomas N. Daymont, conducted the study of the long and short-term impact of military service on post-service earnings and employment.

Despite a substantial drop in the earnings of service personnel at the time of discharge, the civilian earnings of veterans then rise rapidly and overtake the earnings of their civilian counterparts within one to four years, the researchers found.

What's more, once they overtake the earnings of those who never served, veterans' higher earnings persist until the end of the period covered by the study, approximately 19 years after high school.

Using data from the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS), the Temple research team analyzed a representative sample of young men (a similar study of women is anticipated) in the United States. The team compared those who went into the Armed Forces with those who did not. The NLS data allowed them to look at a wide range of demographic characteristics and isolate the effects of military service from those of family background, education, mental aptitude and motivation.

Andrisani and Daymont then examined the earnings trajectories for young men who make different choices after leaving high school: entering the military or college or

joining the civilian labor market directly. While most existing studies have used draft-era data, the Temple researchers focused instead on young men who have served since 1974 in the all-volunteer force. To assess long-term effects, they also studied a sample of older men who served during the Vietnam years.

Their study indicates men who complete a tour of duty and then invest in a college education earn more than those who work in the civilian labor market and then opt for college. They earn less, however, than men choosing college soon after high school.

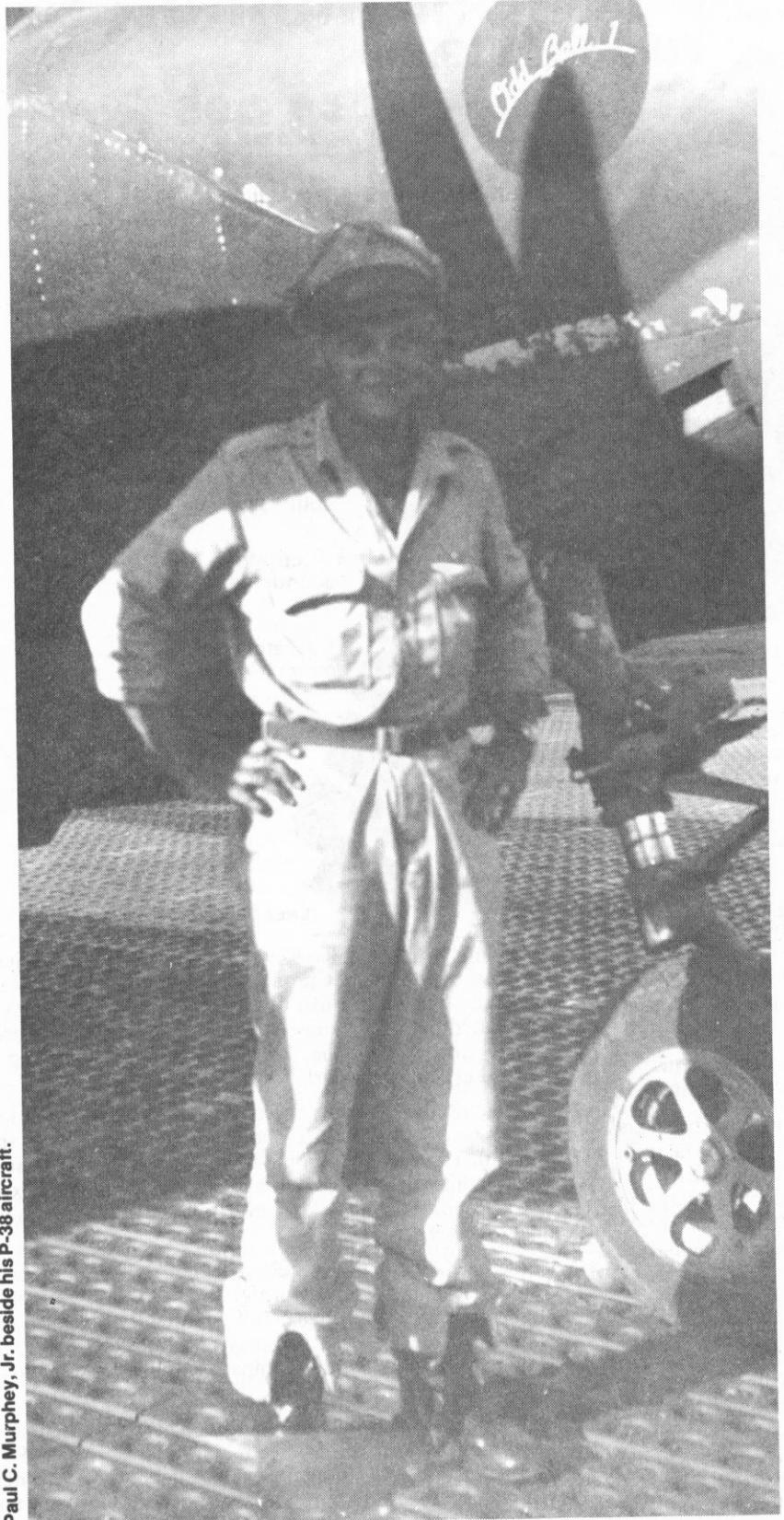
"For the young man who can't afford college," says Daymont, "or who doesn't have clearly defined career goals or a promising job awaiting him, or for the person who wants to take a break in the educational process, the military appears to be a good opportunity."

"We think the military is providing them with training they don't get in school or out on their first job," Andrisani notes. "It can signal employers that veterans are ready to accept the regimentation of the world of work, that they have leadership skills and can take the initiative."

"The value of soldiering may be that it inculcates values that are important to employers: punctuality, acceptance of authority, responsibility, teamwork and sensibility to other people. This is what enables the vet to catch up to and overtake the non-vet in the labor market after a period of adjustment comparable to what the non-vet experienced right after high school."

"Our research also suggests military policymakers may want to consider directing more resources to counseling servicemen at the time of separation to alleviate the short-term job market that veterans face."

So, veterans, retire from the past and refire into the future. ■



Paul C. Murphy, Jr. beside his P-38 aircraft.

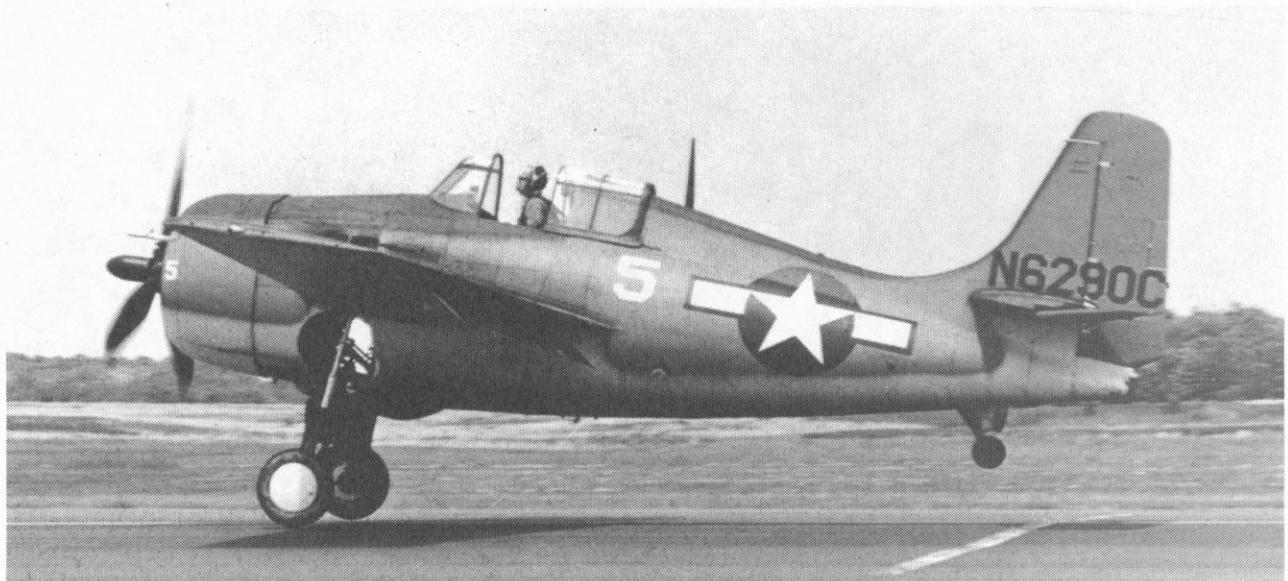
A One-Horse Town

By Peggy Nichols Nash

On Veterans Day I went home to Meridian, the little cow town in Texas where I grew up, to see our town remember its heroes at a ceremony on the courthouse square. Flags were flying in the November sunshine; veterans were saluting, leaves were falling, and memories filled the cold, clear air.

Meridian always makes me think of ancient Rome. It sits on the banks of a river, with hills around it. Like the Roman Republic, it is stern, rural and patriarchal. Value derives from the land. A few patrician families run things; they refer to weekend ranchers from Dallas as "new people." And, like Rome, our town carries with it the frontier sense of urgency and optimism: the seed of empire.

In Meridian, no one likes the government, but everyone seems to love his country. (When I went to college and started reading poetry and smoking cigarettes, I learned that this ambivalence is called the reconciliation of opposites, but at home it was simply a fact of life.) Our cattlemen and clerks and mechanics expected the trains to run on time without the government going into the train business, but, like Cincinnatus, they laid down their plows for their country



Lt. (j.g.) Clayton P. Hall, Jr., flew a Wildcat fighter plane from an aircraft carrier in the battle of Okinawa. Hall is a retired pharmacist.

and found themselves on Corregidor and Anzio Beach.

After Pearl Harbor, service flags appeared in windows all over town, small silk banners with red stars to proclaim a member of the family on active duty. Some of our men had a big spread to come home to; some had families who were cedar choppers. They all had a way of life they wanted to keep. One bleak winter afternoon, after Sunday dinner at my grandmother's house, Mother and Daddy and I drove past a trolley car set on a vacant lot. A service flag hung in the window.

"Fighting for a street car," Mother murmured, and in that moment I knew what it was to love home.

We gathered at 11 o'clock on the east side of the courthouse, facing Benson's market and, in the distance, cemetery hill. On the speaker's platform, with a microphone between them and the north wind, sat the mayor, two county judges, the Baptist preacher and the funeral director's wife, who has a pretty voice and knows how to lead singing. Sitting on folding chairs that wobbled on the grass, the Meridian High School band valiantly tooted "And the Caissons Go Rolling Along."

On the platform, the Baptist preacher began praying, thanking God for guidance and rain. He invited his listeners to recall one of the great themes of the Bible: remembering. "Remember when God delivered you from Egypt. Remember when He sent you manna from heaven. Remember when He brought you into the Promised Land." The Reverend Gatlin seemed pretty certain that God likes for us to remember not only Him, but anyone else along the way who does something to help us.

Watching the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in their overseas caps and solemn faces, I thought of Bubba Hall, my East Texas cousin who taught me to win at Monopoly. When Bubba saw the wing commander ditch his Wildcat fighter in the Pacific, he circled the location until the commander was picked up by a rescue submarine. Forty years later, Bubba gathered his squadron together in Memphis to pay tribute to commander Smith, the bravest man the squadron members ever knew.

Paul Murphrey, who flew 189 missions in a P-38 and came home to marry his sweetheart and raise Hereford cattle, always remembered the sacrifices his friends had made. He

crossed the Pacific again, years later, this time to stand silently in the American cemetery at Manila before the graves of Jennings Myers and Murtha McCarthy, who took off on early morning missions against the Japanese and never returned.

Erna Mae Boggs got up, waved at her son's sixth-grade class, and in a crystal soprano started singing "The Star Spangled Banner." The rest of us joined in. Mayor Tuttle then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the Flag that had snapped in the air over Fort McHenry and Inchon Reservoir. As I looked at the Stars and Stripes, my memory held a procession of images: Daddy at 18, in the trenches of France; my brother Edwin, his B-24 shot down over Yugoslavia, escaping twice from the Germans and, with a swollen leg, riding a donkey down Italy; my husband Norman, who left a hospital bed in England to go into the Normandy invasion and fight to the Elbe River. Bobby Richards, the young Fred Astaire of Meridian, behind a machine gun on Guadalcanal for 55 days. Jimmy Rogers, who delivered groceries from Benson's market to Mother's kitchen door. In Vietnam, under mortar fire, he carried his commanding officer off the field on



Jennings Myers, Paul Murphey and Louis Schriver with P-38 aircraft in Port Moresby, New Guinea, 1943.

his shoulders. And Mother, who on Christmas Day of 1944, after Edwin called from New York, en route to Italy, his first Christmas away from home, went to the back porch and silently, eloquently, cried.

Mayor Tuttle then introduced Judge Grimes, who was retiring from office and seemed ready to fire off one last salvo before retreating into pleasant obscurity. He mentioned the invention of the printing press in the 17th Century and the beginnings of aviation in the 19th. Noticeably shaky in historical knowledge, the judge ended his remarks by reminding all the schoolchildren before him to remember the moral lessons their parents taught them.

Incoming County Judge Hugh Etta Frieburg took the microphone from Judge Grimes. Hugh Etta's father, Hugh Frieburg, had died of influenza in France in 1918 and never saw Hugh Etta. She wore a tailored suit and high heels and made concise, sensible statements on responsibility, especially if you are ever defeated, as she had been in her first political race. She observed that life throws us some bad curves. When this happens, she

said, we should remember the good things in life and take responsibility for holding on to them, as men do when they serve their country. Remembering, she insisted, builds character.

The veterans came to attention as three of their members moved forward. Fuzz Earle, J. Frank Howard and Billy Ed Baxter, Minutemen in levis and plaid shirts, marched into the street, pointed their shotguns at the sun and fired seven times, thus offering a 21-gun salute. Billy Ed played Taps. Tears, swelling through mascara, ran in muddy rivulets down my cheeks.

Standing in the presence of the town's past, I reviewed my own litany of pain: a long unhappy marriage, divorce, death, rejection, civil war, surgery, suicide, violence. Problems were my fiefdom: marital, physical, financial, legal, emotional. Thirty years of trauma, climaxed by a head-on collision in which my husband, who had lived through Normandy, died after 17 unconscious days. I was weary of being resilient. I wondered how and why I had kept picking up the pieces and going on with life.

In asking the question, I received the answer: because the first 20 years in Meridian had been terrific. Memories gave me identity. They gave me hope. They provided me with clouds of witness: ancestors with vision; friends who knew the meaning of love and loyalty; parents who gave me confidence and discipline, the beauty of simplicity, a gambler's eye for the long chance — all I needed. Everything I needed was already there, in my past. Like a prodigal son, all I had to do was to claim my inheritance.

After lots of hugs and hellos, I ate beef stew and cornbread with Edith and A. J. Whitford, who had just moved into a new brick house with two bathrooms. Edith had already crocheted new doilies for the arms of all the chairs in the living room. Late in life she had taken watercolor lessons; A. J. pointed with pride to her paintings of wagons, bird dogs and bluebonnets.

Veterans Day ended. All the opposites were reconciled. Meridian was definitely a one-horse town, one worth fighting for, and I wouldn't trade a day of my memories for 40 acres of downtown Dallas. ■



Fifth Army

Chapel Keeps Memories Alive

By Sgt. Kiki Bryant

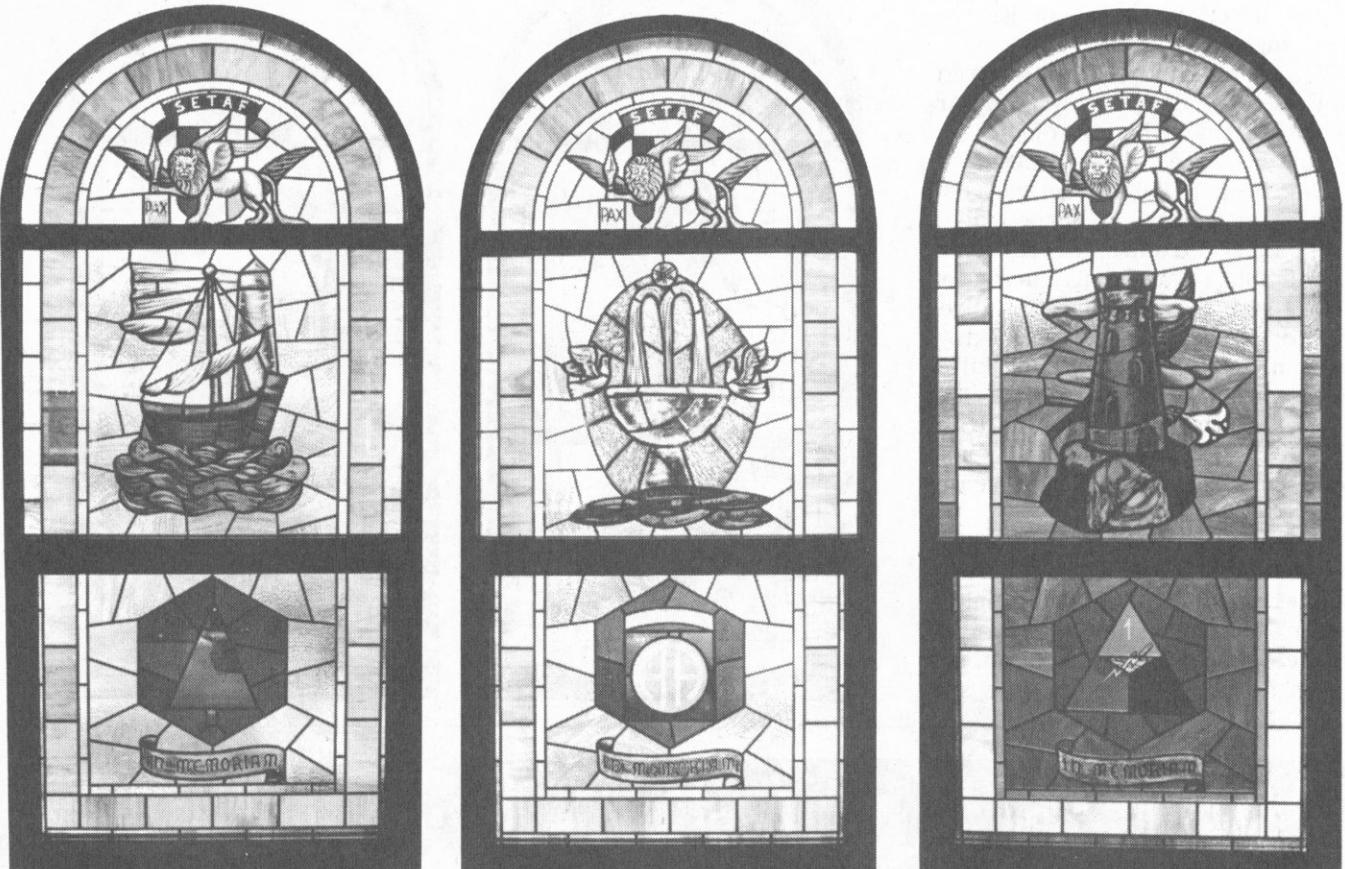
Twenty-nine years ago, the employees of a small Italian stained-glass shop in Vicenza were hired to add color and brightness to the new post chapel at Caserma Ederle.

Today, the 12 multi-colored stained glass windows they created for the U.S. Army's Southern European Task Force and 5th Support Command serve as daily reminders of the contributions of a dozen Army units during World War II.

The chapel windows feature replicas of the units' insignias as a memorial to the 5th Army's fallen soldiers. The units, including Reserve and National Guard, participated in most of the war's campaigns fought in Italy.

The bottom pane of each window depicts a replica of the shoulder patches worn by members of the units who saw combat in Italy. They include the 5th Army, 1st Armored, 82nd Airborne, 34th, 91st, 36th, 92nd, 10th Mountain, 45th, 85th and 88th Divisions. Four of them, the 1st Armored, 82nd, 3rd and 10th, are Regular Army divisions today. The others were inactivated or remained elements of the Reserve and National Guard.

A special tribute to the three



Photographs by SFL Jaime Cavazos

National Guard divisions, the 34th, 36th and 45th, was paid during a ceremony commemorating the 350th birthday of the Guard at the Vicenza chapel last December. Rescued from the process of natural deterioration during the summer of 1986, the refurbished windows were rededicated during the ceremony.

The 12 windows were originally part of an \$11,500 renovation project that converted an old movie theater into a house of worship.

Each tri-sectional window has a picture of the Lion of Saint Mark superimposed on the task force and support command insignia in the top panel. The middle panel depicts various biblical messages such as eternal peace and rest, deeds of the just, the eternal source of happiness, virtue of obedience, temperance, fortitude, justice and prudence. The bottom pane bears a replica of a

division's shoulder patch.

Activated on Dec. 12, 1942, the 5th Army's first combat mission was Operation Avalanche, the invasion of Italy at the Gulf of Salerno.

The 36th, from Texas, fought in seven World War II campaigns during an estimated 400 days of combat and had 19,466 casualties.

During 531 days of combat, the 3rd (Marne) fought in ten campaigns and suffered the highest number of casualties of any American division (24,000 killed and wounded). Thirty-five Marnesmen, including the famous Audie Murphy, America's most decorated soldier, earned the Medal of Honor.

The 92nd (Buffalo) fought in three campaigns and sustained almost 3,000 casualties in Italy. The Buffalo on the patch alludes to the fact that the Plains Indians called black soldiers "Buffalos" because they wore

buffalo-skin coats during the harsh winter months.

The 1st Armored (Old Ironsides) fought in the Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, North Apennines and the Po Valley campaigns. In 30 months, the unit lost 1,194 soldiers in action, 5,168 were wounded and 234 died of wounds received in combat.

The 82nd Abn. (All-American) fought in seven campaigns and is credited with 422 days of combat. Its casualties totaled nearly 7,000.

The 34th (Red Bulls) fought in six campaigns during 500 days in combat. Approximately 14,000 soldiers were killed and wounded.

The 91st (Powder River) participated in three Italian campaigns and lost 8,744 in combat casualties.

The 10th Mountain, activated in 1943, recruited qualified skiers, woodsmen and mountaineers. More

than 4,000 mountaineers were killed or wounded in action in its two campaigns.

The 45th (Thunderbirds) is credited with 511 combat days and participation in eight campaigns. Its casualties were almost 21,000.

The 85th (Custer), activated in 1942, participated in three Italian campaigns and had 8,774 casualties.

The 88th (Blue Devils), activated July 15, 1942, participated in three Italian campaigns. During 307 days of combat, it suffered 11,781 killed or wounded.

Besides the campaigns in Italy, the 3rd, 36th, 45th and 82nd also fought in French and German campaigns.

Although more than 40 years have passed since the last WWII American soldier perished in 1945, the memory of the 5th Army's fallen warriors still shines bright daily through the Caserma Ederle chapel windows. ■



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Lt. Weld's headstone in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France.



1918: Three Who Are Remembered

By Jeffrey Geiger

Nov. 11, 1987, commemorates the 69th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that brought World War I to an end. The "War to End All Wars," as it was called, involved more than 2 million Americans who crossed the Atlantic in 1917 and 1918 to participate in this modern-day crusade.

Massachusetts alone mobilized a military force of 198,863 and experienced about 5,000 service-related deaths. Among these were three close friends from Boston: Robert Fitzgerald Clark, Charles Henry Fiske III and Aaron Davis Weld.

The youngest of the trio was Clark. Born on Sept. 13, 1898, in Dedham, he was the son of Robert Jones Clark and Harriet Fitzgerald. He studied at the Noble and Greenough preparatory school, and in 1916 enrolled at Harvard University. In May, 1917 Clark enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force and was assigned to the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, Fla. Trained as a naval pilot, Ensign Clark sailed overseas in January, 1918, and was temporarily assigned to the British for anti-submarine patrol duty. He was transferred to the U.S. Naval Air Station at Brest, France, where he became chief flight instructor.

Less than a month later, on Aug. 21, 1918, Ens. Clark was on a training mission with a student pilot when suddenly their H.S. 1 seaplane went into a tailspin and crashed into the water killing both occupants.

On June 25, 1920, Clark's body was returned to Newton Centre, Massachusetts, for burial in Newton Cemetery.

Fiske was born on Dec. 3, 1896, the son of Charles H. Fiske, Jr., and Mary Duncan Thorndike. After graduating from the Country Day preparatory school in Newton, he spent the summer of 1914 traveling abroad with his family. When war broke out in Europe, instead of returning to Harvard to begin his university education, Fiske entered Trinity College in Cambridge, England. Here, he received his first military training in the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

He returned to Harvard in the fall of 1915, but left a year later to enter the military training camp at Plattsburgh, N.Y. He graduated as a sergeant and immediately after, in August, 1916, sailed overseas, where he joined the American Ambulance Field Service in France. Later that year he served with the French Army on the Macedonian front.

His service completed, Fiske returned to Paris in June, 1917, and briefly was the personal driver for Frederick Palmer, the war correspondent. Fiske returned to Harvard in the fall of 1917. In January, 1918, he entered the Officers' Training Camp at Camp Upton, Yaphank, N.Y., and three months later sailed overseas with the 77th Division. On Aug. 5, after a brief tour at the Army Artillery School at Saumur, France, Lt. Fiske was assigned to the 111th Infantry, 28th Division.

Seven days later Lt. Fiske was severely wounded near Fismette during the Aisne-Oise offensive. He was taken to Red Cross Hospital No. 3 at Paris, where he died as a result of his wounds on Aug. 24, 1918. He is buried in the American cemetery at Suresnes, near Paris.

In 1920 the parents of Lt. Fiske established the Lieutenant Charles H. Fiske III Scholarship Fund at Harvard University in memory of their son. The scholarship, which continues today, is open to all graduating seniors or graduates of Harvard for study at

Trinity College, Cambridge, England.

Aaron David Weld was born on Sept. 21, 1896, the son of Bernard Coffin Weld and Mabel Stephenson. He attended Noble and Greenough preparatory school and later Harvard University. In August, 1917, he entered the Officers' Training Camp at Plattsburgh and was commissioned a first lieutenant in November.

Detailed to Camp Merritt, N.J., Lt. Weld was placed in charge of the casual detention camp before going overseas with the 41st Division on Aug. 2, 1918. The following month he transferred to the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division.



Memorial Fountain in Cunel, France.

During the next few weeks, the 3rd Division experienced some of the bloodiest fighting of the war as the American Army pushed through the supposedly impregnable MeuseArgonne Forest. On Oct. 9, a group of new officers, including Lt. Weld, reported for duty at the regiment's front line. Weld was put in charge of a platoon at Cunel Woods. Two days later his unit was badly mauled and pinned down by an enemy machine gun. Weld made his way back to battalion headquarters to report his position and to direct an artillery fire against the German position. While directing the fire, he was killed instantly by shrapnel from enemy guns.

Lt. Weld is buried in the MeuseArgonne American Cemetery at Romagne, France. For his courage and heroic action at Cunel Woods, the City of Boston named the city square at Commonwealth and Massachusetts Avenues in his honor. In the Arlington Street Church in Boston, a memorial tablet dedicated to Lt. Weld

reads: He died the noblest death a man may die/fighting for God, right and liberty and/such a death is immortality.

Shortly after the war, the families and friends of Aaron Weld, Charles Fiske III and Robert Clark dedicated a memorial water fountain in the village of Cunel near where the last of the three servicemen was killed. The fountain is situated in the village churchyard, where it once provided fresh water to local residents.

It is no longer in use, and over the years has deteriorated from lack of proper care. Though badly weathered, the inscription on its stone surface reads:

In Memoriam

Robert Fitzgerald Clark
Ensign U.S.N.R.F. Aviation
Boston, Sept. 13, 1898 — France, Aug. 21, 1918

Charles Henry Fiske 3rd
2nd Lieut. 111 Infantry 26th Div. U.S.A.
Boston, Dec. 3, 1896 — France, Aug. 24, 1918

Aaron Davis Weld
1st Lieut. 7th Infantry 3rd Div. U.S.A.
Boston, Sept. 21, 1896 — France, Oct. 11, 1918

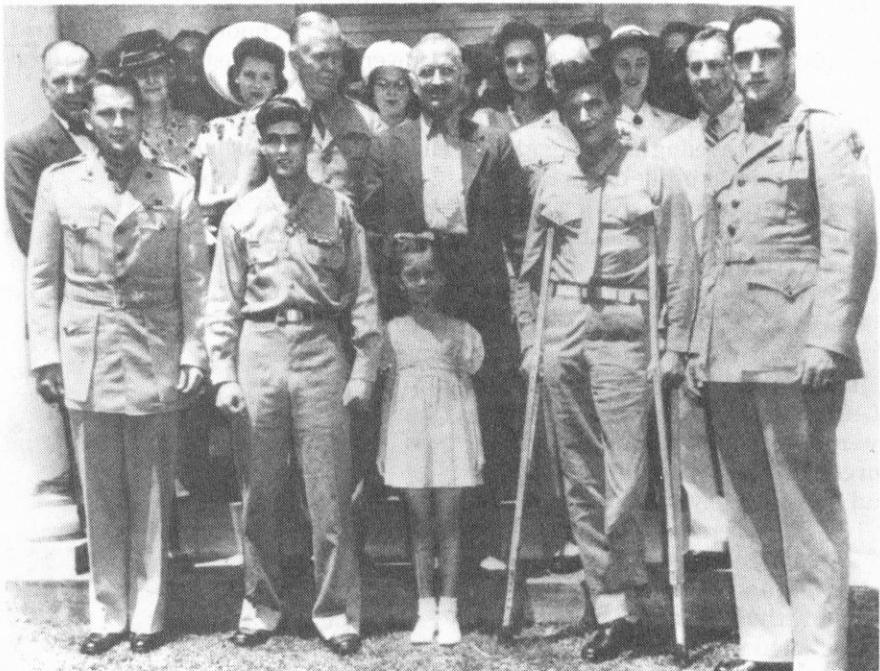
Trois Citoyens Americains Morts Pour La Liberte

(Lt. Fiske was assigned to the 28th Division, not the 26th as inscribed on the memorial. It was an easy mistake to make. The 26th was composed of New Englanders.)

The village of Cunel, located about 150 miles east of Paris along a small secondary route, D-123, is a small rustic community with a population of about 60. Nearly all its residents have spent their entire lives in this quiet farming community. Few outsiders come to this village. During the afternoon the quiet is punctuated by the muffled sound of small children playing in the courtyards, the clanging of dishes as wives and mothers prepare the luncheon meal and fleeting glimpses of farmers clad in blue coveralls with high black rubber boots returning from the fields. Some on tractors.

Except for a few modern conveniences, it is still 1918 in Cunel. It is the part of France that Robert Clark, Charles Fiske III and Aaron Weld knew well and fought to save. ■

Heroes



at the VA

In their work at the Veterans Administration, recipients of the Medal of Honor share with many fellow employees a strong sense of mission.

"I wanted to work with people I have something in common with," says John L. Levitow, 42, assistant chief of medical administration at the VA Medical Center in Newington, Conn.

Gino Merli, 62, benefits counselor at the VA Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., says, "Because you are helping your fellowman, working for the VA is very rewarding."

"You feel a sense of mission at the VA," says Brian Thacker, 42, a management analyst at the VA's Central Office in Washington, D.C.

Levitow, Merli and Thacker are three of the nine recipients of the medal who presently work for the VA.

It is a small group, even though the VA is the largest civilian employer of veterans who have been awarded the nation's highest honor.

Other recipients of the Medal of

Four World War II veterans meet with General George C. Marshall and President Truman in the White House Rose Garden after being awarded the Medal of Honor. Gino J. Merli (second from right) now is a Veterans Administration employee at the VA Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The other recipients are, from left, Everett P. Pope, Luther Skaggs and Carlton Rouh.

Honor presently working for the VA are:

- Vietnam War veterans Frank A. Herda, staff assistant at the Cleveland Regional Office; Clarence E. Sasser, contact representative at the Houston Regional Office; Delbert O. Jennings, contact representative at

By Bonner Day

the Seattle Regional Office, and Jimmie E. Howard, contact representative at the San Diego Regional Office. Howard also is a Korean War veteran.

• Korean War veterans Harold E. Wilson, contact representative at the Medical Center in Columbia, S.C., and Raymond G. Murphy, supervisory contact representative at the Albuquerque Regional Office.

A tenth medal recipient, James Bondsteel, an Army veteran of Vietnam, was a readjustment counseling assistant at the Regional Office in Anchorage, Alaska, when he died in April, 1987.

And though these special VA employees have been recognized with the nation's highest award for heroism in combat, that part of their lives is history. They take a quiet pride in being too busy with commitments to their VA responsibilities to spend much time reliving the past.

"My job is really special and different from most because I am helping a veteran and his family with their benefits," says Merli. He concedes the job may not be as exciting as combat, but insists it is more rewarding.

According to Levitow, "The Medal of Honor can open a lot of doors to employment, but I have not seen any position as fulfilling as working at a VA hospital."

Merli, the only World War II veteran remaining among this elite group of employees, has been with the VA for 41 years.

"I didn't think about staying in the service," says Merli. "It was time to get out. I had done my part."

The medal is evidence Merli did much more than his part. Drafted after his junior year in high school, Merli quickly found himself in the thick of the fighting. Less than a year after entering the Army, he was one of the thousands of Americans who landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day.

Three months later Pfc. Merli was manning a machine gun in Sars la Bruyere, Belgium, when his 14-man, 1st Division, 18th Infantry unit was

attacked by a 500-man German force. After his unit was surrounded, the position was quickly overrun.

While others were killed or captured, Merli lay down by his gun and feigned death. When the enemy unit withdrew, he returned to his machine gun and again began firing.

Four times the position was overrun and four times Merli pretended to be dead. In an effort to still the machine gun, the enemy at one point fired an artillery shell that exploded directly on his position.

After U.S. troops launched a counterattack the next morning, the enemy, which had suffered heavy losses, asked for a truce. Advancing American soldiers found Merli at his machine gun with a wounded hand and 52 enemy dead within his field of fire.

The Medal of Honor citation credits Merli's gallantry and courage and the losses and confusion he caused the enemy with contributing materially to the battlefield victory.

Merli went on to fight in the Battle of the Bulge that winter. After suffering wounds in the left wrist and left leg, he was evacuated to the U.S.

It was while Merli was at home on recuperation leave that he was invited to Washington, D.C., to be awarded the medal.

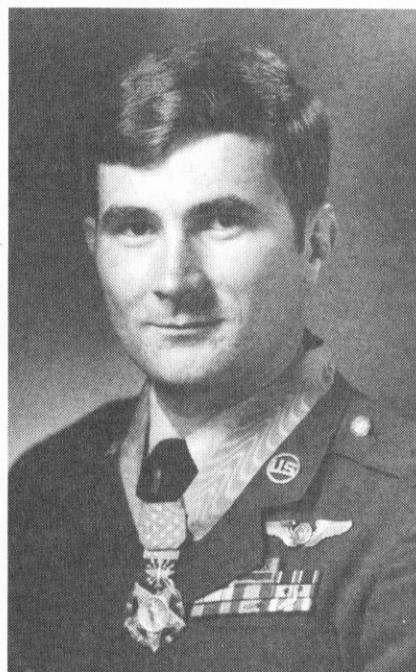
Levitow, the only enlisted member of the U.S. Air Force to receive the Medal of Honor, was born in November, 1945, three months after Merli attended the White House ceremony.

While assigned as a loadmaster aboard an AC-47 aircraft in February, 1969, Sgt. Levitow discovered an activated flare that threatened to blow the plane out of the air.

The flare had been knocked loose when the aircraft, flying a night mission in Vietnam, was hit by a hostile mortar round, knocking a gaping hole in one of the wings and 3,500 holes in the fuselage.

Levitow, though stunned by the concussion of the blast and bleeding from wounds, was assisting one of the wounded crewmen when he spotted the 37-pound flare rolling and bouncing on the compartment floor.

Levitow fell on the flare when he found he was unable to grasp it with his hands. Hugging the deadly device to his body, he then dragged himself



John Levitow, a VA employee at the Newington, Conn., Medical Center, is the only enlisted member of the Air Force to receive the Medal of Honor since its creation as an independent service in 1947.

to the open cargo door and hurled it out of the aircraft. At that instant the flare separated and ignited.

The Medal of Honor citations says Levitow, by his selfless and heroic actions, saved the aircraft and its entire crew from certain death and destruction.

After the plane was landed safely, saving the lives of eight crewmen, Levitow was treated for wounds from more than 40 pieces of shrapnel. Levitow flew one more mission in Vietnam before returning to the U.S. to receive the medal.

The University of Hartford and work as a sales manager followed. Then he was urged by a friend to come to the VA as a benefits counselor.

Levitow says it is hard to compare his brief service in the Air Force to his career as a counselor to veterans. "I was in the Air Force for four years, but I have worked for the VA for more than 17."

Brian Miles Thacker, an Army artillery officer at the time, was assigned to an isolated South Vietnamese Army outpost in March, 1971, when a North Vietnamese Army force launched an attack.

Employing rockets, grenades and flamethrowers, the enemy forces penetrated the outpost's defenses and engaged the defenders in hand-to-hand combat.

Throughout the day, Lt. Thacker rallied and encouraged the U.S. and South Vietnamese soldiers to repulse the enemy. For four hours, he directed friendly air strikes and artillery fire from a dangerously exposed position.

In the late afternoon, Thacker directed the withdrawal of the remaining forces but remained alone to provide covering fire, in complete disregard for his own safety.

Thacker then called for artillery fire on his own position to allow his comrades more time to withdraw from the area.

Although wounded and surrounded by enemy soldiers, Thacker successfully eluded capture for the next eight days, hiding in a bamboo thicket less than a kilometer away from the outpost. Pinned down, with nothing to eat or drink, he was close enough to the enemy to hear them patrolling the area.

In the meantime, the hilltop was retaken by U.S. and South Vietnamese forces in a helicopter assault. On the eighth day, Thacker crawled through enemy lines to within earshot of the allied forces. A Vietnamese scout heard his shouts and left the outpost to find and carry the weakened Thacker back to safety.

Thacker was discharged two



months later, in May, 1971. He received the Medal of Honor in 1973.

After getting a master's degree in health administration, Thacker joined the Veterans Administration, signing on at the Medical Center in Long Beach, Calif.

A veteran who has been awarded the medal is eligible for a special VA pension from the date the veteran applies for the pension. Since October, 1978, the pension has been set at \$200 a month. Medal recipients also receive top priority in VA hospitals and outpatient clinics, and, like other veterans, are assisted with education and other veteran benefits.

Because of their experiences, Medal of Honor recipients are especially prized as employees, particularly as counselors to other veterans. As a special group, recognized with

The Medal of Honor is awarded to Brian M. Thacker, a veteran of the Vietnam War, by President Nixon in White House ceremonies. Thacker now works for the Veterans Administration's Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation.

the nation's highest award for valor in combat, they have a keen rapport with other veterans who may need help. That is why President Truman, in a special order, began the American tradition of encouraging VA employment of Medal of Honor recipients. ■

Homecoming Site Rich in Americana

By James K. Anderson

When James Fenimore Cooper wrote "The Pathfinder" in 1840, set in Upstate New York during the French and Indian War, he had no idea that nearly 150 years later another pathfinder would return to the same region as the leader of more than 2 million American veterans.

While Cooper's woodswise pathfinder was earthbound, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr., leaped from airplanes as a World War II paratrooper to show the way to other airborne troops.

Stock's return to Albany was for the traditional homecoming festivities accorded VFW Commanders-in-Chief following election at the end of National Conventions.

Homecomings all have their special character that emphasizes a special region and taken as a whole reflect the vast diversity of the United States.

The Albany area of Upstate New York is rich in the nation's early history. Stock is a native and lifelong resident, with time out for Army service in the Pacific Theater with the 11th Airborne Division.

Aside from being the state's capital, Albany in colonial days was often an objective in the early settlers' wars with the French and Indians. The Revolution did not change its strategic importance, and the British suffered one of their greatest defeats at Saratoga, 30 miles north.

Localities in the area resound with the sounds of history—Oriskany, the Mohawk Valley, the Erie Canal and Ticonderoga, for example. Dutch influence stands out in the names of towns like Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Rensselaer, Watervliet, Schuylerville, Stuyvesant and Kinderhook. Troy, across the Hudson River from Albany,

Utica, Rome, Syracuse and Ithaca recall the Classical Revival.

Albany is filled with reminders of its history, such as St. Peter's Church opposite the Hilton Hotel where the homecoming was held. Dating from 1688, the church is the burial place of Lord George Augustus Howe, a British general during the French and Indian War who was popular with the Ameri-

they were scarcely visible against the clouds. In that same section is the Egg, an oval-shaped theater and auditorium.

On hand to greet the 500 or 600 homecoming guests at the airport were vans from Post 6196 in Queensbury and a bus from Post 6433 in Waterloo.

For the guests, Don Rivers, of Post 729 in Watervliet, and his wife Rita were in charge of the tours. These included the Watervliet Arsenal, dating from the War of 1812; the beginning of the Erie Canal, now the New York State Barge Canal, at Waterford where the Mohawk River meets the Hudson River, and the Cohoes Commons, where bargain shopping was available. Post 729 provided lunch.

Guides John C. Kacharian, a historical preservationist, and Terry Winslow, an area teacher, provided insights into the arsenal's origin and continued use and the role the canal played in opening up the Midwest to settlement and commerce.

Another tour was to the Saratoga National Historical Park, a thickly wooded area of 3,415 acres cut with deep ravines that appears virtually untouched after the American victories there at Freeman's Farm and Bemis Heights in October, 1777. The surrender of British Gen. John Burgoyne to the American, Gen. Horatio Gates, is considered the turning point in the Revolution. It prevented the colonies from being cut in two and led to French, Dutch and Spanish support for the Americans.

Across the road from the restored Nielson farm, which was Gates's headquarters, a monument marks the burial place of unknown American soldiers. Nearby, another honors Gen.

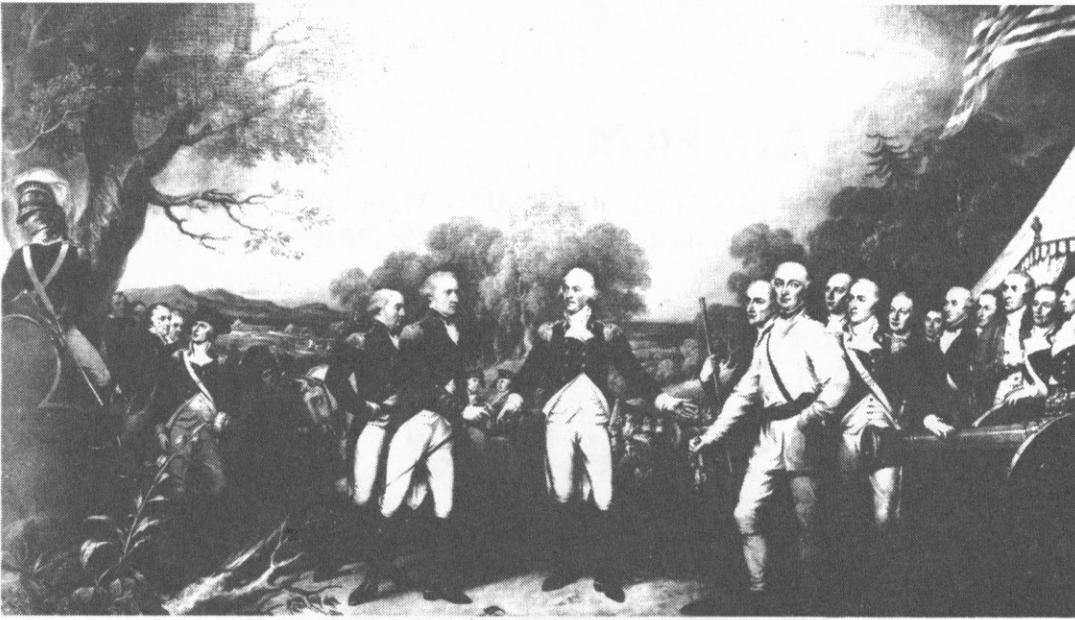


Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock holds a mounted collection of his World War II awards presented him by Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute.

cans. His ghost is said to roam the church at night, rearranging altar flowers or doing other mischief.

Down State Street from the hotel are several historical sites, including the nation's oldest building in continuous use as a bank. Up the street is the State Capitol, one of the few in the country without a dome. An equestrian statue of Gen. Phil Sheridan, claimed as a native son by Albany, stands guard.

Side-by-side with the old but well-preserved buildings are the modern marble and glass structures of the Empire State Plaza rising into the sky. During the homecoming, however,



British Gen. John Burgoyne surrenders his sword to American Gen. Horatio Gates after the British defeat at the Battle of Saratoga in October, 1777. Historians consider this the turning point in the American Revolution.

Tadeusz Kosciuszko, the Polish volunteer who designed the American defenses at the battlefield, as well as those at West Point.

On Friday evening, Aug. 28, at the Albany Off Track Betting Tele-Theater, the guests were treated to a dinner and viewing 11 trotter races on television from the Saratoga Springs race-track.

The homecoming banquet at the Hilton Saturday night, Aug. 29, was the scene of an outpouring of enthusiasm for Commander-in-Chief Stock and confidence that his year, with his theme of "For America, Whatever It Takes," will be a major VFW success.

Leading off as a speaker was A.B. Washko, VA northeast regional director stationed at the Albany VA Medical Center, who recalled the close relationship he developed with Stock when the Commander-in-Chief was New York Department Service Officer and praised him for his concern for veterans and their needs.

From Congress, Rep. Samuel S. Stratton, who represents the Albany area in the House, and Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, who chairs the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, lauded Stock as a veterans' leader.

Stratton, who first met Stock 20 years ago while campaigning, said of the Commander-in-Chief: "He was down to earth and took the problems of veterans seriously. We in New York State produced him and know we

have a real winner in him."

Montgomery called the VFW "a great patriotic organization that works for defense, and we need the VFW's help to do our work in Washington for veterans." He added that he believed Stock will make the VFW "one of the best Commanders-in-Chief in VFW history."

After congratulatory letters from President Reagan and Vice President Bush were read, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter Hogan pledged Stock their support as members of the 1987-88 team.

Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., presented Stock with a mounted set of WWII ribbons, chevrons, and Combat Infantryman and Parachutist Badges. Vander Clute also congratulated John Ray, homecoming chairman; Department Commander Jack I. Simons and several others for their "outstanding job" in arranging the three-day celebration. Newly-elected Auxiliary National President Joan Katkus said, "This year is going to start off with a bang, and we are going to do 'for America, whatever it takes.'" Quartermaster Gen. Herbert W. Irwin also voiced his support for the Stock team.

Among the presentations made to Stock was that by President Rae Pinto, of the Old Tryon County Council Ladies Auxiliary, a large Bicentennial Flag hand-crocheted by President

Belle Bruse, of Auxiliary 2077, Gloversville, N.Y.

During the banquet, special tribute was paid to Past Commanders-in-Chief Clyde Lewis and Joseph Lombardo, both New Yorkers, like Stock. They were two of the many Past Commanders-in-Chief at the homecoming.

In his remarks, Stock expressed his gratitude to his Post, District, County Council and Department for encouraging him to seek the office of VFW Commander-in-Chief.

"This is a special honor and responsibility, and I am very serious and determined to do the best I can for veterans and our country," he continued. "We have great leadership that knows what it is all about — veterans helping veterans and working for veterans. As a team, we can do everything."

Stock added that he is proud of his service to the United States, as are all members of the VFW.

These words were reminiscent of those uttered by the Pathfinder in Cooper's novel:

"A soldier's calling is an honorable calling, provided he has fit only on the side of right."

To which the homecoming guests would have added that they have fought for America on the side of right and will continue to do whatever it takes. ■

1987-88 Plans Are Firm

Shortly after the 88th National Convention in New Orleans, national committees met in Kansas City and Washington, D.C., to set goals and firm up plans for the leadership year. On these pages

Americanism



Seated: Frank Borello and C.C. Blankinship, Vice Chairmen; Rena Nunn, Ladies Auxiliary National Americanism Director; Raymond Price, National Director; Paul Phillips, Chairman, and Michael J. Mason, Vice Chairman. Not shown, Moe Panell, Vice Chairman. Standing: National Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler, Inspector Gen. Peter E. Olson, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter Hogan and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute.

Buddy Poppy



Seated: James L. Kimery and Dwaine Wilson, Vice Chairmen; Dominic J. Romano, Chairman; Thomas L. Kissell, National Director; T. William Bossidy and Robert C. Jordan, Vice Chairmen. Standing: National Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter Hogan, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute.

Community Activities



Seated: John A. Lutz and George S. Smith, Vice Chairmen; Rosalie Fabio, Ladies Auxiliary National Community Activities Director; Raymond Price, National Director; Al Gordon, Chairman, and William Nelson and Charles Godke, Vice Chairmen. Standing: National Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter Hogan, Inspector Gen. Peter E. Olson and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute.

are pictures of chairmen and vice chairmen of the committees that met in Kansas City and the national officers who attended the meetings.

Safety Committee



Seated: Don R. Byerly, Vice Chairman; Beverly Weaver, Ladies Auxiliary National Safety Director; Paul R. Fleurdeleys, Chairman; Joe Ross, National Director; Glenn Phillips, Joseph L. Eckrich and Charles L. Cannon, Vice Chairmen. Standing: National Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler, Inspector Gen. Peter E. Olson, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter Hogan and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute.

Voice of Democracy



Seated: Ed Marzec and Ray Mullin, Vice Chairmen; Larry Le Febvre, National Director; Jack McIsaac, Chairman; Eileen Tanner, Ladies Auxiliary Voice of Democracy National Director; and Fred Sigmon and Darrell Elliott, Vice Chairmen. Standing: National Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter Hogan, Inspector Gen. Peter E. Olson and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute.

Youth Activities



Seated: Jim Kurz, Merritt Edwards, Vice Chairmen; Larry Le Febvre, National Director; George T. Kelley, Chairman; Eileen Tanner, Ladies Auxiliary National Youth Activities Director; and Earl Muse and Kent Anderson, Vice Chairmen. Standing: Inspector Gen. Peter E. Olson, National Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter Hogan and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute.



Members of Post 4340, Brandon, Fla., prepare to fold the Flag at the end of ceremonies at the Florida State Fair in Tampa.

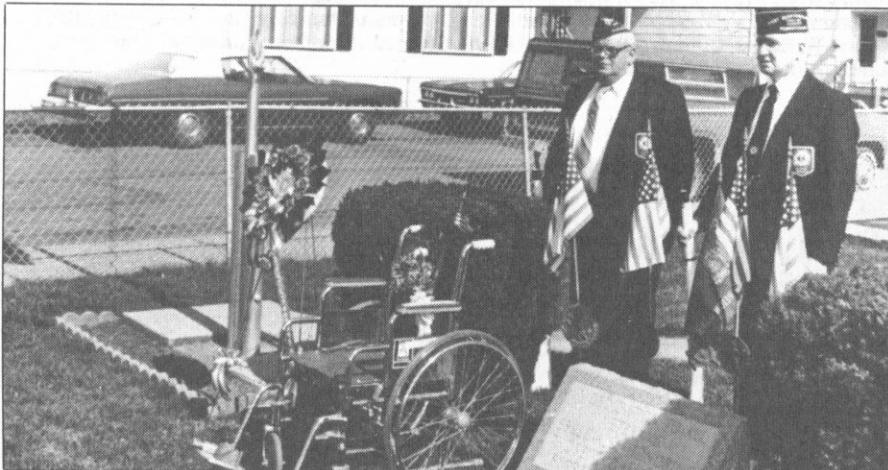


Post 4262, Columbia, S.C., has begun annual scholarship programs to Allen University and Benedict College of \$750 each. Completing the details are, seated, Mrs. Mozella Ford, Allen University financial aid director; Commander Daniel Thompson, Jr., and Mrs. Betty Shearin, president of Benedict College, and, standing, Commander-elect Bennie Hicks, Mrs. Catherine Priolem, of the Ladies Auxiliary; Post QM Eugene Johnson; Mrs. Theodora Cayruth, of the Ladies Auxiliary, and Scholarship Committee Chairman Jim Chandler. The scholarships are named for the late Ora McIver, a charter member, former Post Quartermaster and Post Trustee.

There is little that the VFW does not do whether it is assisting people, commemorating historical events, contributing to worthwhile causes or simply being good citizens. Whatever, if it is constructive, you may be sure there is VFW involvement somewhere.



Loyalty Day got a good start, as Georgia's District 7 dedicated its float in several area parades to the Constitution's bicentennial. Shown is Commander Ben F. Clay, of District 7 and Georgia's Americanism chairman.



Standing at attention in final tribute to Frank (Moncie) Ciprich after his funeral are two representatives of Post 6325, Hudson, Pa. The wheelchair bore Ciprich for 37 years, ever since he was wounded in Korea and given five years to live. Ciprich was Commander of Post 6325 for three years and a dedicated worker for the Post and its programs, especially for the youth. Commander Joseph F. Mansfield praised the Wilkes Barre, Pa., VA hospital for the care given Ciprich that extended his life.



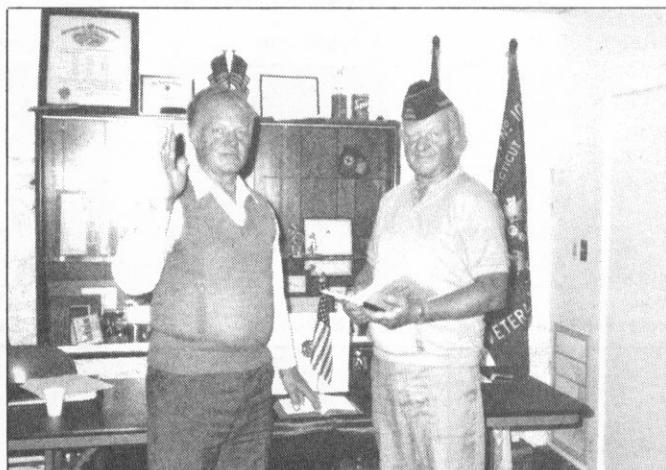
Ted King, left, receives a VFW Certificate of Appreciation prepared by Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab when King was chosen Citizen of the Year in Fairport, N.Y. Making the presentation is Fairport Mayor Vincent G. Kelleley, a past Commander of Post 8495. King is Post Commander and a charter member.



A check for nearly \$2,500 was presented to the Waupaca, Wis., County Salvation Army by the 1986 VFW Bellringers from Post 1037, Waupaca, and Post 9748, Iola-Scandinavia.



Post 4376, Seven Points, Texas, gained a new member, Marquis D. Carter, and the Auxiliary a new member, too, Mrs. Carter. Theft of Carter's Flag and halyard was reported in the local paper, and a VFW delegation composed of Commander Fred Genschel, Trustee J.B. Robinson and Adjutant Lee Colburn presented the Carters with a new Flag and halyard and hoisted it for them. It was learned that Carter, a WWII veteran of 36th Division service, was eligible for membership. The next evening at a Post meeting he became a Life Member, and Mrs. Carter joined the Ladies Auxiliary. In the photo, the Carters are on the left and Genschel and Robinson on the right.



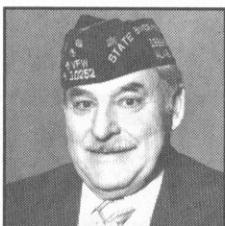
You are not seeing double, but Commander Raymond C. Norell, right, of Post 10059, Trumbull, Conn., swearing in his twin, Richard G. Norell. Both served in the same unit during the Korean War.

M E M B E R S H I P

1987-88 Department Commanders



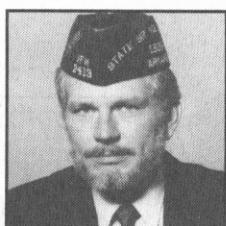
Alabama
Clarence Gardner



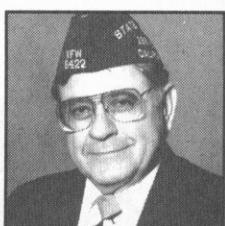
Alaska
Vernon Jones



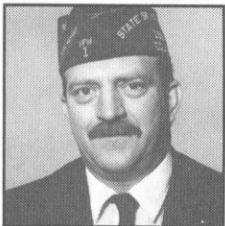
Arizona
Allen F. Kent



Arkansas
John Haynie



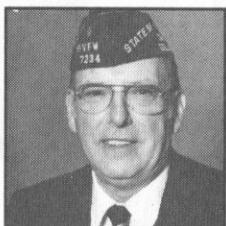
California
Joseph I. Romano



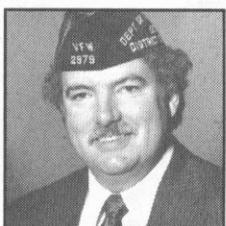
Colorado
James A. Bonito



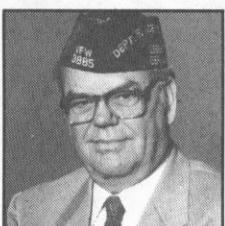
Connecticut
Earl H. Dunton, Jr.



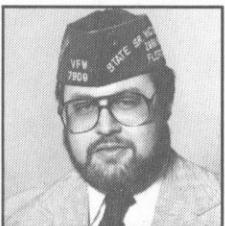
Delaware
John V. Curry



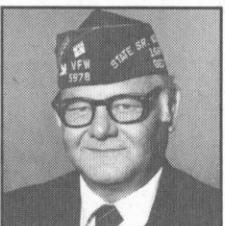
District of Columbia
Austin J. Smith, Jr.



Europe
Marvin L. Snyder



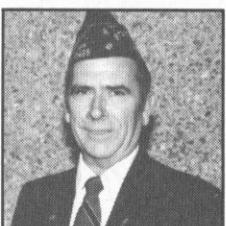
Florida
John E. Hamilton



Georgia
Jim Fulbright



Hawaii
Zoilo Kupukaa



Idaho
Paul Montgomery



Illinois
William L. Jackson



Indiana
Richard L. Jordan



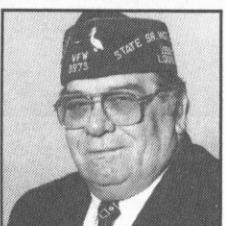
Iowa
W. P. Shannon



Kansas
Jay Herring



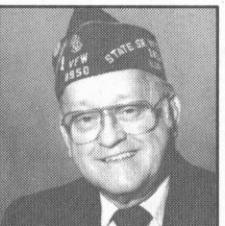
Kentucky
Donald J. Martin



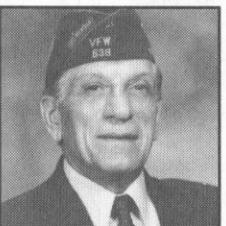
Louisiana
R. V. Martin



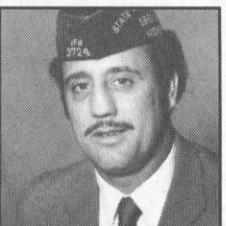
Maine
Peter F. Miesburger



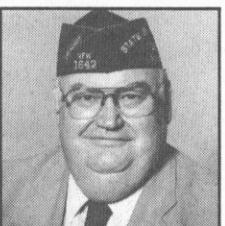
Maryland
Carl N. Thomas



Massachusetts
Michael J. Imbracio



Michigan
John Harrow, Jr.



Minnesota
Dean Means



Mississippi
Charles Royce



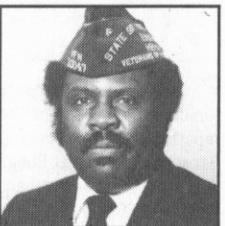
Missouri
Jerry Wood



Montana
Pat Smith



Nebraska
Harold McChesney



Nevada
Odis Ward



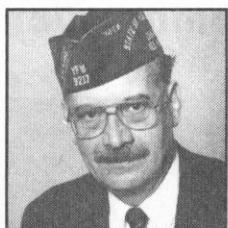
New Hampshire
Jerry Parenti



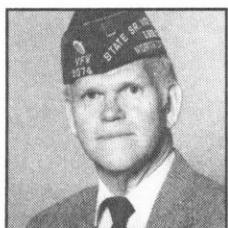
New Jersey
Joseph Taormino



New Mexico
Tyrone M. Benson



New York
Jack I. Simons



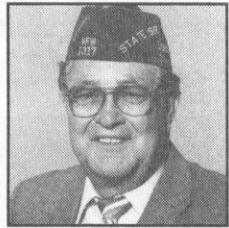
North Carolina
Carroll Smith



North Dakota
Jerome Berg



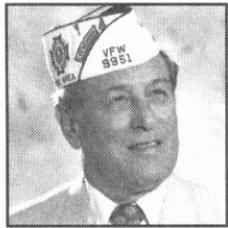
Ohio
John E. Moon



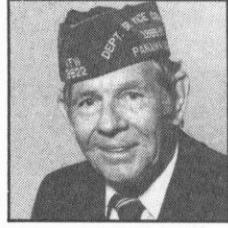
Oklahoma
Garth Nixon



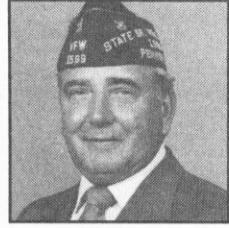
Oregon
Joe L. Turpen



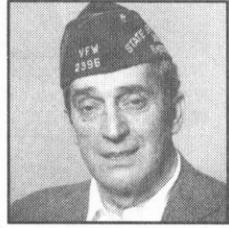
Pacific Areas
Leon R. Vileo



Panama Canal Zone
James R. Wilkins



Pennsylvania
Jack Barger



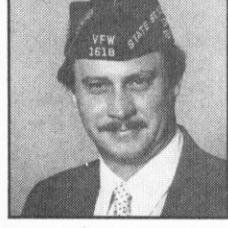
Rhode Island
John Sivo



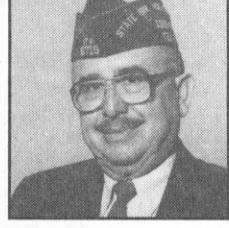
South Carolina
William M. Chapman



South Dakota
Robert J. Petrik



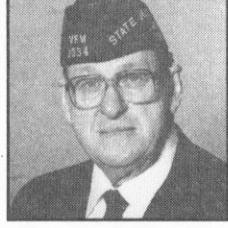
Tennessee
Ronnie L. Davis



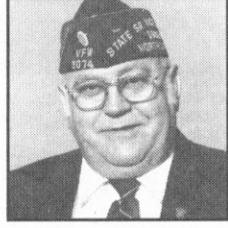
Texas
Felix Longoria



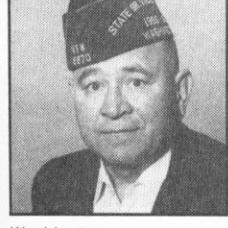
Utah
Donald Myers



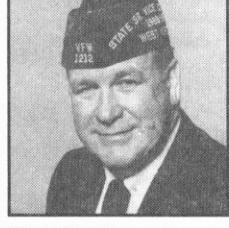
Vermont
Robert Geisler



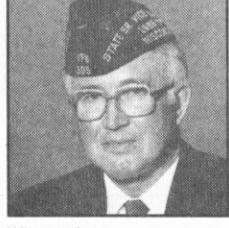
Virginia
Harry H. Spielman



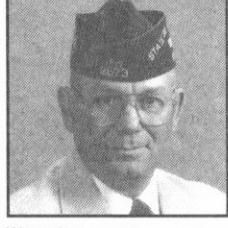
Washington
Jim Raymond



West Virginia
Samuel Baldwin



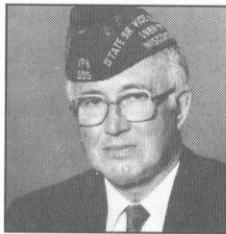
Wisconsin
George Pfieilsticker



Wyoming
Duane Clifton

September Commanders-of-the-Month

Department



DIV. III
Wisconsin
George Pfieilsticker



DIV. VI
Louisiana
R.V. Martin



DIV. IX
Rhode Island
John Sivo



DIV. I
California
Joseph I. Romano



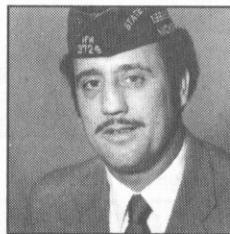
DIV. IV
Maryland
Carl N. Thomas



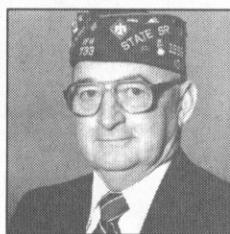
DIV. VII
Arizona
Allen F. Kent



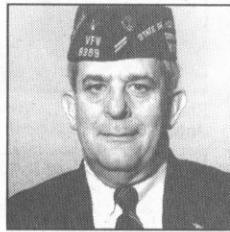
DIV. X
Wyoming
Duane Clifton



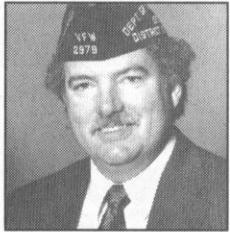
DIV. II
Michigan
John Harrow, Jr.



DIV. V
Iowa
W.P. Shannon



DIV. VIII
Maine
Peter F. Miesburger



DIV. XI
District of Columbia
Austin J. Smith, Jr.

Post

DIV. I
Post 1114
Indiana
Lena G. Weisheit

DIV. III
Post 6240
Kansas
Roger H. Michell

DIV. V
Post 467
Maryland
William O. Fox

DIV. VII
Post 802
Indiana
Ralph Gearhart

DIV. IX
Post 4780
Tennessee
Tony Darnell

DIV. XI
Post 5032
Georgia
J.E. Land

DIV. XIII
Post 6496
Tennessee
Thomas E. Byrum

DIV. XV
Post 8296
Maryland
Ronald L. Hamm

DIV. XVII
Post 10385
Arizona
John T. Mugridge

DIV. XIX
Post 5046
Florida
Donald F. Kelso

DIV. V
District 11
Michigan
Donald Jensen

DIV. VI
District 1
Maryland
Jerry M. Williams

DIV. XII
District 5
Pacific Areas
Robert L. Jones

District

DIV. I
District 7
Minnesota
Dick Jeppesen

DIV. II
District 6
Minnesota
Harlen Guse

DIV. III
District 14
Maryland
Gene L. Stewart

DIV. IV
District 6
Kansas
A. Lynn Hall

DIV. V
District 11
Michigan
Roland A. Wilson, Sr.

DIV. VI
District 1
Maryland
James H. Navies

DIV. VII
District 13
Pennsylvania
William Mundell

DIV. VIII
District 3
Louisiana
Harold Adams, Sr.

DIV. IX
District 5
Wisconsin
David L. Mays

DIV. X
District 11
Missouri
James H. Navies

DIV. XI
District 2
Maine
Robert L. Jones

(Figure in parentheses indicates number of times Commander has won this honor.)

County Council

DIV. I
Lancaster County Council
Pennsylvania
William K. Risser

DIV. II
Milwaukee County Council
Wisconsin
Robert DeRosia

DIV. III
Berks County Council
Pennsylvania
Bernard R. Schultz

DIV. IV
Kossuth-Emmet County Council
Iowa
Dale Menke

Posts of 1,000 Members or More

Recorded as of October 7, 1987

Post Place No.	Location	1987-88 Membership	
1 1114	Evansville, IN	3240	14 49
2 6506	Rosedale, MD	1999	15 2290
3 628	Sioux Falls, SD	1793	16 1079
4 5555	Richfield, MN	1733	17 1989
5 360	Mishawaka, IN	1709	18 367
6 1146	St. Clair Shores, MI	1663	19 401
7 47	Unontown, PA	1597	20 969
8 1308	Alton, IL	1549	21 1275
9 3579	Park Ridge, IL	1543	22 249
10 1296	Bloomington, MN	1409	23 2539
11 131	Lincoln, NE	1389	24 379
12 1273	Rapid City, SD	1370	25 6704
13 1599	Chambersburg, PA	1359	26 9619
	Mobile, AL	1345	26 6251
	Manville, NJ	1333	28 1650
	Elyria, OH	1274	29 1621
	Indiana, PA	1238	29 549
	Joliet, IL	1224	31 6796
	Albuquerque, NM	1221	32 2503
	Tacoma, WA	1205	33 6240
	Lima, OH	1189	34 7330
	Butler, PA	1186	35 6874
	Gulfport, MS	1183	36 1810
	Yakima, WA	1164	37 5632
	Mechanicsburg, PA	1159	38 1064
	Morningside, MD	1127	39 2100
	Cheektowaga, NY	1127	40 2199
	Topeka, KS	1125	40 8541
	Janesville, WI	1123	42 4087
	Tucson, AZ	1123	43 6975
	Dallas, TX	1118	44 6640
	Omaha, NE	1113	45 112
	Russell, KS	1105	46 428
	Oakville, CT	1099	47 1865
	Lemon Grove, CA	1095	48 3790
	Brentwood, PA	1091	49 2704
	St. Louis Park, MN	1088	
	Huntington, WV	1087	
	Everett, WA	1083	

Order of Parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through Sept. 30, 1987.

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 61.92%

1 MARYLAND	70.63	15 Connecticut	63.67	29 Pacific Area	61.58	43 Texas	58.06
2 Wisconsin	69.49	16 Alaska	63.59	30 New Jersey	61.22	44 Oklahoma	56.25
3 Michigan	68.07	17 Rhode Island	63.31	31 Louisiana	61.13	45 North Carolina	56.21
4 Minnesota	67.81	18 Nebraska	63.17	32 Idaho	60.38	46 Georgia	56.09
5 Kansas	66.99	19 Arizona	63.17	33 Missouri	60.20	47 Arkansas	56.08
6 California	66.47	20 Washington	62.78	34 Delaware	60.18	48 Alabama	55.68
7 Maine	66.35	21 Massachusetts	62.63	35 Oregon	60.13	49 Kentucky	54.06
8 Wyoming	65.98	22 South Dakota	62.62	36 Pennsylvania	59.39	50 Tennessee	54.04
9 Nevada	64.91	23 Montana	62.45	37 Florida	59.36	51 Hawaii	49.90
10 District of Columbia	64.52	24 Virginia	62.39	38 New Mexico	59.21	52 South Carolina	49.39
11 Iowa	64.33	25 New York	62.38	39 Vermont	59.20	53 Mississippi	47.94
12 Indiana	64.23	26 New Hampshire	62.32	40 West Virginia	59.08	54 Europe	41.52
13 Ohio	63.93	27 Colorado	62.03	41 Panama Canal	58.96		
14 Illinois	63.90	28 North Dakota	61.59	42 Utah	58.66		

National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by qualifying for the National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class award. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members.

Michael J. Salome, Post 3982, Santa Clara, Calif.; Antonio DiSante, Post 4412, Hudson, Fla., and Timothy F. Gilmore, Post 2146, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

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- AIR MEDAL
- AMERICAN CAMPAIGN
- AMERICAN DEFENSE
- ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY
- ARMED FORCES RESERVE
(Specify Branch)
- ARMY COMMENDATION
- ARMY GOOD CONDUCT
- ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN
- BRONZE STAR
- CHINA SERVICE (N, M/C, C/G)
- DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
- EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-M.E., CAMPAIGN
- KOREAN SERVICE
- MARINE GOOD CONDUCT
- NAVY COMMENDATION
- NAVY GOOD CONDUCT
- NAVY & MARINE CORPS MEDAL
- NAVY RESERVE MEDAL
- NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE
- PHILLIPINE LIBERATION
- PURPLE HEART
- REP. VIETNAM CPGN/YEAR BAR
- SILVER STAR
- UNITED NATIONS SERVICE
- VIETNAM SERVICE
- WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION
(Specify Branch)
- WORLD WAR II VICTORY

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Persistence Is Name of Game

Some persons are willing to settle for less, but Lionel (Pete) Vaillancourt, New Hampshire VFW Department Service Officer, is not one of them, especially when it involves the well-being of so many veterans who place their confidence and trust in him as their representative.

An example of this can be seen in the case of John Howarth, a Vietnam veteran for whom Vaillancourt went the extra mile to achieve success far beyond what even the veteran had expected.

Howarth contacted Vaillancourt after the Manchester VA Regional Office notified him that his claim for a 100% service connected disability rating had been denied. He hoped the VFW would intervene and bring about a reversal of the decision. Without hesitation, Vaillancourt persuaded Howarth to file an appeal.

He then took the veteran before a traveling section of the Washington-based Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), which was making a periodic visit to Manchester, and successfully argued the case. The result was establishment of a 100% compensation rating along with special monthly compensation.

Knowing that he had accomplished what he set out to do in the case, Vaillancourt could have rested on his laurels, but this would have been too easy.

After the BVA's decision, Howarth's case was returned to the Manchester VA office, where an effective date of Sept. 1, 1983, was established for the 100% disability rating. Reviewing this action, Vaillancourt noted that the original claim for increased benefits had been filed in May, 1983, not September, and, therefore, he believed that an earlier effective date was in order. He brought this to the attention of the appropriate VA official who agreed. The veteran was paid retroactivity of more than \$20,000 and monthly benefits of \$1,700. Approximately a fourth of the retroactive

amount was directly related to the effective date error Vaillancourt found.

Still more had to be done. Going over Howarth's file in connection with the effective date issue, Vaillancourt noticed that the VA failed to concede that the veteran's service connected disability was permanently disabling at the 100% level. This meant that

**The VFW is pleased
to note that Pete
Vaillancourt is
currently participating
in the VFW Department
Service Officer Pilot
Program, which is
designed to study the
feasibility of
nationalizing VFW
Department Service
Offices.**

Howarth's daughter could not receive dependency educational assistance for her college education. He initiated an appeal and, for the second time, took the veteran before a BVA traveling section, where, once again, he met with success.

This case took well over two years to resolve finally, although the basic issue of a 100% rating consumed only a small portion of this time, and the case could have ended when it was granted. Vaillancourt, however, was not willing to settle for less, and the results proved it.

The VFW is pleased to note that Pete Vaillancourt is currently participating in the VFW Department Service Officer Pilot Program, which is designed to study the feasibility of nationalizing VFW Department Service Offices. ■

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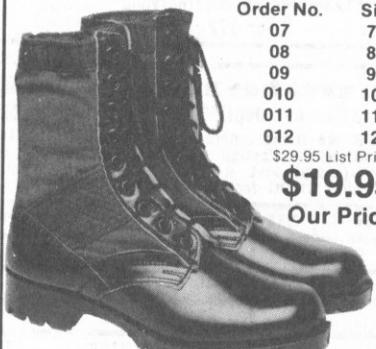
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of the United States

1987-88 Series General Orders No. 1

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- Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
- The following officers having been duly elected and installed by the 88th National Convention will be accorded the recognition due them:
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief: Larry W. Rivers, Post 1736, Alexandria, La.; Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief: Walter G. Hogan, Post 6498, Milwaukee, Wis.; Quartermaster General: Herbert W. Irwin, Post 5789, Lee's Summit, Mo.; Judge Advocate General: James B. Lund, Post 323, Stillwater, Minn.; Surgeon General: Philip J. Begley, M.D., Post 1178, Harlan, Ky.; National Chaplain: Bishop Boyd W. Winterton, Post 4355, Salt Lake City, Utah. National Council Members: District No. 1, Curtis E. Brown, Post 758, St. Albans, Vt.; District No. 3, James R. Ross, Post 6342, No. Smithfield, R.I.; District No. 5, John P. Walker, Jr., Post 1120, Indianapolis, Ind.; District No. 7, George B. Simons, Post 5064, McMinnville, Tenn.; District No. 9, Henry S. Allen, Sr., Post 641, Columbia, S.C.; District No. 11, Charles Arndt, Post 8637, Eagle River, Wis.; District No. 13, Earl Stiner, Jr., Post 3421, Omaha, Neb.; District No. 15, Christian L. Hammond, Post 720, Phoenix, Ariz.; District No. 17, Patrick L. Jordan, Post 4248, Portland, Ore.; District No. 19, A.O. Cummings, Post 4272, Columbus, Miss.; District A, Tavio Angelo, Post 8861, Hollsopple, Pa.; District B, Thomas Morgan, Post 1592, Charleston, Ill.; District C, Charles J. Schnobrich, Post 3068, Buffalo, N.Y.; District F, Irving Wendt, Post 2496, Alpena, Mich.; District G, C.W. Kelly, Post 1744, San Bernardino, Calif.; District I, Robert E. Wallace, Post 1851, Newark, N.J., and District J, Edwin H. Shuman, Post 4256, Madeira Beach, Fla.
- All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.
- The following appointments are hereby announced:
Adjutant General: Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., Post 6467, Bergenfield, N.J.; National Chief of Staff: Paul E. Wampler, Jr., Post 833, Washington, D.C.; Inspector General: Peter E. Olson, Post 603, Norwalk, Conn.; Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director, Washington Office: Cooper T. Holt, Post 1289, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Assistant Adjutant General — Administration: Edward L. Burnham, Post 1724, Willimantic, Conn.; Assistant Adjutant General — Programs: Curtis M. Jewell, Post 1090, Warren, Ohio; Assistant Quartermaster General: James D. Bowden, Post 869, Kansas City, Mo.; Director, Administrative Services: John J. Senk, Jr., Post 335, Cranford, N.J.; Director, Americanism and Community Activities: Raymond N. Price, Post 8100, Grandview, Mo.; Director, National Convention: Omar F. Kendall, Post 673, Jasper, Ind.; Director, General Services: David L. Swindler, Post 4050, North Kansas City, Mo.; Director, Membership: W. Benny Bachand, Post 4287, Orlando, Fla.; Director, Post Development and Safety: Joseph D. Ross, Post 2048, Elmhurst, Ill.; Director, Post Services and Buddy Poppy: Thomas L. Kissell, Post 9648, Columbus Grove, Ohio; Director, Publications and Public Relations: Wade W. LaDue, Post 6603, Blue Springs, Mo.; Director, Voice of Democracy and Youth Activities: Lawrence LeFebvre, Post 552, Lincoln Park, Mich.; Director, National Legislative Service: James N. Magill, Post 9862, Rockville-Gaithersburg, Md.; Director, Public Affairs, Washington Office: William G. Smith, Post 7327, Springfield, Va.; Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs: Kenneth A. Steadman, Post 424, Tampa, Fla.; National Service Officer & Director, National Veterans Service: Frederico Juarbe, Jr., Post 401, Albuquerque, N.M.; Director, Emblem and Supply Department: Joe L. Ridgley, Post 1000, Independence, Mo.; Director, Purchasing and Life Membership: Robert B. Greene, Post 846, Overland Park, Kans.; Director, Insurance Programs: Robert Crow, Post 4027, Mount Vernon, Ohio; Director, VFW Properties, Kansas City: William D. Foster, Post 8100, Grandview, Mo.; Director, VFW Properties, Washington, D.C.: William Callaghan, Post 5627, College Park, Md.; Editor, VFW Magazine: James K. Anderson, Post 2513, Warrenton, Mo.; National Sergeant-at-Arms: George F. Sarver, Jr., Post 402, Coraopolis, Pa.; Administrative Assistant to the Adjutant General: Jefferson Larson, Post 846, Overland Park, Kans.; Administrative Assistant to the Quartermaster General: Gary A. Housknecht, Post 3243, Fenton, Mich.; Administrative Assistant, Washington Office: Edward L. Andrew,

- Attention of Commanders at all levels is directed to the provisions of Section 211 of the National By-Laws, pertaining to resolutions adopted by the National Convention:

"Any public communication and/or promulgation by Posts of Resolutions contrary to Resolutions adopted by the National Convention shall be in violation of the laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the lawful orders of the National Convention and shall be cause for the immediate suspension by the Com-

continued on page 50

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G E N E R A L O R D E R S

continued from page 48

- mander-in-Chief of the charter of any Post found by him to be in such violation and if action to comply with the mandates of the Convention is not taken before the end of the suspension period, the Charter of such Post shall be cancelled by the Commander-in-Chief and such cancellation shall not be subject to the appeals provided herein."
7. Post Commanders, County Council Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to FEDERAL LEGISLATION OR TO THE POLICY OR PROCEDURE OF THE U.S. VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils and Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until approved by the Commander-in-Chief.
8. Invitations to National Officers must be forwarded through channels to the Adjutant General with approval of the Department Commander. This applies to all National Officers, and unless the above is complied with, invitations will not be given consideration.
9. DEPARTMENT RESERVE. Attention is called to Section 517, Manual of Procedure, that requires Department Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund to which shall be credited not less than fifty percent (50%) of all current year's (1988) dues that he receives prior to July 1, 1988. No Department Quartermaster shall disburse nor shall an obligation be incurred against this fund until after July 1, 1988, at which time all moneys to the credit of the fund shall be transferred to the Department General Fund for expenditure in accordance with the approved Department budget.
10. POST RESERVE. Attention is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, which mandates Post Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund to which shall be credited not less than one-half of the Post's part of the current year's (1988) dues paid by each member prior to July 1, 1988, except dues remitted by the Post. No Post Quartermaster shall disburse, nor shall an obligation be incurred against this fund until after July 1, 1988, at which time it shall be transferred to the Post General Fund and be available for expenditure.
11. Attention of Commanders at all levels is directed to action of the National Council of Administration prohibiting the wearing of VFW sports caps and/or western style caps at VFW meetings in place of the regulation cap of the VFW official uniform as set forth in Section 803 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. This prohibition is in accordance with previous directives of Commanders-in-Chief that it is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of The Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit the wearing of other than the official VFW cap at VFW meetings.
12. Attention of Commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Constitution and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of negotiable funds for which he may be accountable.
13. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, Duty of Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit, through their Post Commander, a Trustee Report of Audit (Supply Department Stock No. 4214) quarterly to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September.
14. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of Internal Revenue Service.
15. Attention of all units is called to the amendments which provided for changes to the following sections of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure adopted by the 88th National Convention which are effective as of September 21, 1987: 101, 102, 111, 203, 204, 216, 217, 218, 220, 305, 306, 316, 317, 318, 320, 406, 414, 415, 416, 418, 506, 515, 516, 517, 519, 608, 617, 618. All units are required to purchase the revised By-Law and Ritual books from the Supply Department reflecting the changes.
16. All National Aides-de-Camp, Medal of Honor Class, who held appointments prior to Aug. 21, 1987, will be reappointed upon verification that such Aides are members in good standing for the 1988 membership year.
17. All members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who have been awarded the Medal of Honor are eligible to appointment as Aides-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief, Medal of Honor Class. Post Commanders will report such members to their Department Commanders for recommendation and referral to the Commander-in-Chief.
18. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day. (See Section 223, Manual of Procedure.)
19. The National Council of Administration meeting will be held in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 3, 1987.
20. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to the Commander-in-Chief's decision in response to questions raised concerning alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting as set forth below:
- It is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting. Accordingly, the presence, dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting rooms during the Post meeting is completely unacceptable and any such practice known to exist shall be terminated.
21. Announcement is made of the change of location of the following Post: Post 1845, Simpsonville, S.C.
22. A certificate of charter evidencing consolidation has been issued to the following Posts: Post 6784 and Post 436 consolidated as Post 6784, Harper Woods, Mich.; Post 7084 and Post 1633 consolidated as Post 7084, Union City, Ind., and Post 9937 and Post 9956 consolidated as Post 9937, Exeter, Calif.
23. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post No. 700, Chubbuck, Idaho; Post No. 1129, San Lorenzo, Calif.; Post No. 2545, Redlands, Calif.; Post No. 2606, Manila, Ark.; Post No. 3468, New York, N.Y.; Post No. 3529, Afton, N.Y.; Post No. 3630, Topaz Lake, Nev.; Post No. 3685, Ellsworth, Wis.; Post No. 3688, Independence, Mo.; Post No. 3710, Bethany, Okla.; Post No. 3874, Kaiula-Kona, Hawaii; Post No. 3879, Montclair, Calif.; Post No. 3902, Fort Atkinson, Iowa; Post No. 3916, Duran, Okla.; Post No. 3926, Edmond, Okla.; Post No. 3991, Pike, N.Y.; Post No. 4064, Miamisburg, Ohio; Post No. 4147, Bailey, N.C.; Post No. 4157, Clarington, Ohio; Post No. 4236, Sherwood, Ark.; Post No. 4379, Winchester, Calif.; Post No. 4390, Lushy, Md.; Post No. 4424, Amarillo, Texas; Post No. 4473, Conway-North Conway, N.H.; Post No. 4497, Lincoln, N.H.; Post No. 4498, Reisterstown, Md.; Post No. 4626, Lincoln, Neb.; Post No. 4656, La Vista, Neb.; Post No. 4672, Papillion, Neb.; Post No. 4677, Alda, Neb.; Post No. 4678, Clay Center, Neb.; Post No. 4691, Remington, Ind.; Post No. 4701, Gary, Ind.; Post No. 4717, Wolf Lake, Ind.; Post No. 4751, Westville, Ind.; Post No. 4761, Dana-Newport-Cayuga, Ind.; Post No. 4771, Everett, Wash.; Post No. 4783, Twisp-Winthrop, Wash.; Post No. 4849, Sugar Grove, Ill.; Post No. 4861, Palos Park, Ill.; Post No. 4894, Lindenhurst, Ill.; Post No. 4897, Oakwood Village, Ohio; Post No. 4930, New Albany, Ohio; Post No. 4953, Rock Creek, Ohio; Post No. 4984, Grand Rapids, Ohio; Post No. 4986, New Lebanon, Ohio; Post No. 4988, Horseshoe Bend, Ark.; Post No. 5071, Seattle, Wash.; Post No. 5085, Tipton, Mo.; Post No. 5167, Itasca, Ill.; Post No. 5176, Baldwinsville, N.Y.; Post No. 5196, Syracuse, N.Y.; Post No. 5218, Black River, N.Y.; Post No. 5233, Geneva, Ill.; Post No. 5288, Allendale, Mich.; Post No. 5293, Lincoln, Mich.; Post No. 5320, Edenville, Mich.; Post No. 5358, Maysville, Okla.; Post No. 5363, Hastings, Mich.; Post No. 5387, East Tawas, Mich.; Post No. 5389, Prague, Okla.; Post No. 5502, Noble, Okla.; Post No. 5529, Purcell, Okla.; Post No. 5701, Kansas City, Mo.; Post No. 5717, Kearney, Mo.; Post No. 5721, Smithville, Mo.; Post No. 7559, Stony Creek, Va.; Post No. 7845, New Port Richey, Fla.; Post No. 7864, Hughes, Ark.; Post No. 9599, Jefferson, Iowa; Post No. 10009, Tuscola, Ill.; Post No. 10030, Melville, La.; Post No. 10036, Lutcher, La.; Post No. 10039, Ada, Okla.; Post No. 10055, Tulsa, Okla.; Post No. 10092, Barnegat, N.J., and Post No. 10099, Dewey, Okla.

By Command of
Earl L. Stock, Jr.
Commander-in-Chief

OFFICIAL:
Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General

New Travel Benefit Announced

The VFW Member Benefits Department is pleased to announce a brand new discount program. VFW members can get a 10% discount off published room rates at all Regal 8 Inns. You need only present your VFW Membership Card at check-in to save 10% off Regal's moderately priced rooms.

Regal 8 Inns, with more than 50 locations throughout the Mid- and Southwest, is one of the fastest-growing chains in America. They offer the business and recreational traveler a long list of services and comforts, including non-smoking rooms, suites, complimentary coffee and in-room movies or cable TV, indoor or outdoor pool, direct dial in-room telephones and 24-hour front desk service.

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cards and provide toll-free reservation services. Room rates vary from \$22.88 to \$27.88. Suites start at \$30 per day. Free directory available by calling 1-800-851-8888.

Purchase Power Update

Purchase Power has announced a new furniture vendor who guarantees the lowest prices anywhere. This dealer is factory authorized to distribute over 300 fine brands of furniture.

Should you be thinking of making a furniture purchase, visit furniture showrooms in your area to find the pieces you like. Note as much information as possible, including manufacturer's name, model number or furniture group name, fabric number and color, and any other pertinent infor-

mation. If these details are not readily available, simply call the furniture vendor at the telephone number and describe the piece you like listed here, including as many details as possible — style, dimensions, and type of wood or finish.

When you call and cannot provide specific information such as manufacturer and model number, the vendor will suggest various brands and models and will send you descriptive material if available. The vendor will work to stay within your budget.

Service doesn't stop after you've placed your order. All orders are shipped to the vendor's warehouse before being shipped to you. The vendor thus assures that the shipment from the manufacturer's factory has arrived in good condition. Your order is then shipped to you via professional movers, experienced in residential delivery of home furnishings. Finally, movers unpack your furniture and set it up in your home, exactly where you want it. You receive professional service from the time you place your order to when you take delivery.

For fine furniture, call the furniture vendor on the toll free number, Monday thru Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Time. Remember to have your group number and your individual I.D. number available. Prices quoted include tax and delivery charges.

1-800-443-1342

Members please note: If you lose this telephone number, simply call the number listed in your membership kit. Your call will be routed to the new vendor.

Hawaiian Residents: Purchase Power is currently establishing vendors for appliances, television and videos on the islands. Hawaiian residents will be able to take advantage of the Purchase Power program. This information will be published in the Member Benefit section when the vendors are determined. ■

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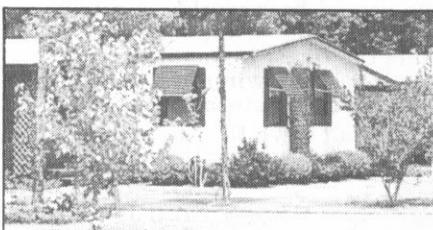
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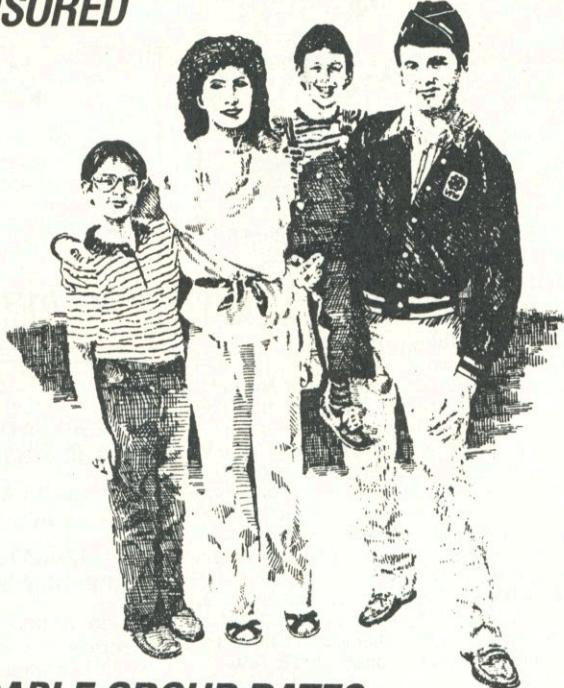
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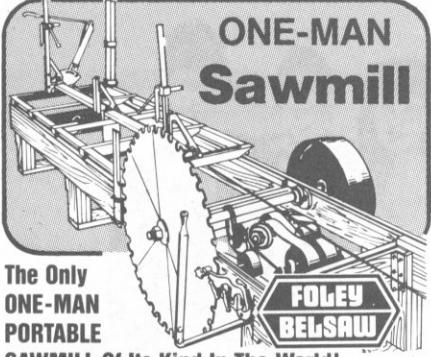
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R E U N I O N S

Reunion announcements are published as a cost-free service to VFW members in good standing. To ensure timely inclusion of your announcement, all information pertaining to the event must arrive in VFW Magazine offices six months prior to the reunion. Reunion announcement forms must be used and can be obtained by writing VFW Magazine, Reunions, 34th and Broadway, Kansas City MO 64111. Publication is limited to one time per calendar year.

AIR FORCE

5th Ftr. Cmd., HQ—June, King City MO—Lester Estill, 311 W. Hampshire, King City MO 64463

18th Pursuit Sqdn.—October, Dallas—Arthur J. Cretton, PO Box B, Wasco CA 93280.

76th Svc. Sqdn. (WWII)—August, Dayton OH—George Wickline, 3980 Haney Rd., Dayton OH 45416.

307th Bomb. Gp., Bn. Wg. & ARW—May, Nashville—Cena Marsh, 1923 Atkin Ave., Salt Lake City UT 84106.

434th Bomb. Sqdn., 12th Bomb. Gp. (WWII)—June, Colorado Springs CO—Donald E. Hiatt, 2628 Hartsel Ct., Loveland CO 80538.

448th Bomb. Gp. Assn. (WWII)—Oct., Harlingen TX—Leroy Engdhal, 1785 Wexford Dr., Vidor TX 77662.

467th Svc. Sqdn. (WWII)—September, Whiteville NC—Henry F. Eicholz, 62 Lenox Ave., Clifton NJ 07012.

494th AA Bn.—Ames IA—Harold Stensland, R.R., Cambridge IA 50046.

684th AC & W Sqdn. (Mt. Lemmon AFS, Ariz. 1956-59)—Steve Moranec, 6135 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando FL 32809.

830th Guard Sqdn. (Selfridge Field, Mich. 1942-43)—June, Peoria Heights IL—Jake Tennant, 814 E. Hines Ave., Peoria Hts. IL 61614.

1903d Engr. Avn. Bn., Co. C (Korea, 1952-54)—Ron Gill, PO Box 36, King of Prussia PA 19406.

1906th Avn. Engr. Bn. (WWII)—July, St. Libory NE—Don Hill, 308 W. Baseline, Lafayette CO 80026.

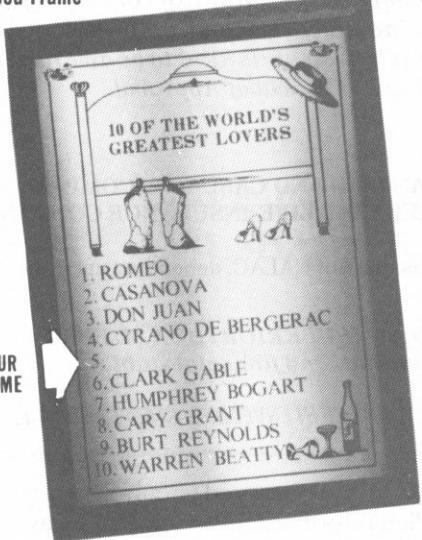
Nagoya Area Japan—May, Nashville—Frank Mulligan, 1220 Fox Run Dr., Florissant MO 63033.

USAF Enlistees (1951-52, London, GB)—February, Grand Terrace CA—John R. Berryman, 11734 Eton Dr., Grand Terrace CA 92324.

WWII Night Fighters—May, Las Vegas—A.E. Anderson, 8885 Plumas Cir., D-116, Huntington Beach CA 92646.

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ALL BRANCHES

301st Veterans Assn., 301st BG & Wings, (WWII)—July, San Antonio TX—301st Veterans Assn., PO Box 47843, San Antonio TX 78265-8843.

Anzio Beachhead (WWII)—April, Pensacola FL—Allan W. Rossel, 52 Valley Rd., Port Washington NY 11050.

Armed Guard Veterans (WWII)—Battle Creek MI—Raymond Didur, Sr., PO Box 282, Cement City MI 49233-0282.

Beirut Landing (1958)—July, Knoxville—Jack McGivney, 832 Dorset Dr., Knoxville TN 37923.

Nome, Alaska (WWII)—June, Nome AK—Theodore Scheeck, 78 Emerson Rd., Milton MA 02186.

North Dakota Iwo Jima Vets.—Feb., Mandan ND—Leo W. Gray, Rt. 1, Box 110-A, Hankinson ND 58041.

PBM Martin Mariners, Mars, Marin and Seamaster Pilots—April, Jacksonville FL—Dave Rinehart, 6590 Alhambra Ave., St. 100, Martinez CA 94553.

Polar Bear Assn. (WWII)—Aug., Dearborn MI—Polar Bear Assn., 24 Fair Ln., Westfield MA 01085.

Vietnam Veterans—Jan., Ardmore OK—Tom Walker, PO Box 2184, Ardmore OK 73402.

Vireo MSC 205, (1957-59)—March, Lompoc CA—Thomas Phillips, 4132 Constellation Rd., Lompoc CA 93436.

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I Field Forces, 6/14th Arty.—Aug., Chicago—George Cramer, 7913 Apache Lane, Woodridge IL 60517.

1st Air Cav., 34th Inf., Scout Dog Pltn.—1989, Las Vegas—Jerry Witt, 2202 N. 115th St., Wauwatosa WI 53226.

1st Inf. Div., 26th Rgt., Co. M., (WWII)—Feb., Orlando—Don Hubbard, 46 Logo Ct., Ft. Myers FL 33912.

1st Div. (WWI, WWII, Vietnam)—April, Washington D.C.—1st Division, PO Box 2331, Springfield VA 22152.

2d Armd. Div. Assn.—June, Camp Hill PA—Lewis Bogart, RD 1, Box 208, Hughesville PA 17737.

2d Engr. Spec. Bde., 562nd Engr. Boat Maint. Bn., SW Pacific, (WWII)—Feb., Orlando FL—Jim Webster, PO Box 578, Mount Dora FL 32757.

2d Inf. Div., 9th Inf., Med. Co. Collecting Station (May 52-July 53)—March—Norb Grendowski, 930 Chipaway Dr., Apollo Beach FL 33570.

3d 4.2" Chem. Mortar Bn.—July, Atlanta—Quentin R. Unger, 6016 Torrey Pines Dr., Ocala FL 32672.

3d & 42d Chem. Lab.—April, Biloxi MS—Bartle Hunt, 124 Live Oak Dr., Biloxi MS 39532.

3d Inf. Div., 3rd MD Bn., Co. B—March, Las Vegas—Ray Zimmerman, 2205 W. Summer St., Mesa AZ 85203.

5th Gen. Hosp. (WWII)—James E. Callahan, 131 Washington St., Box 869A-Low, Locust Grove VA 22508.

5th Inf. Rgt. Assn.—July—Joseph Lebeda, PO Box 5025, Sta. A, Portland ME 04101.

7th Cav., 2d Bn., Co. D (Vietnam, 1967-68)—1988—Terrance P. Girard, 12911 Iona Rd., Ft. Myers FL 33908.

8th Div., 28th Inf., Co. G (WWII)—August, Elgin IL—John F. Zenk, 17N545 Randall Rd., Dundee IL 60118.

10th Mtn. Div., 87th Inf., Co. H—June, 1988—Glenn D. Krause, 7436 Dupont Ave. So., Richfield MN 55423.

11th Abn. Div. Assn. Western States (WWII, Korea)—March, Fresno CA—Charles Gunter, 2521 W. Grayville Dr., La Habra CA 90631.

11th MP Svc. Unit, (Korea, 1951-53)—Oct., Branson MO—Warren Logue, RT. 1, Box 158, Lexington MO 64067.

13th Abn. Div., 129th Abn. Engrs.—March, Palm Beach Gardens FL—Robert Hansen, 552 Flotilla Rd., North Palm Beach FL 33408.

16th Field Hosp., 1st Pltn.—April, Nashville—John Watercott, 324 24th Ave. North, St. Cloud MN 56301.

16th Med. Rgt.—May, Plymouth MA—Floyd Winningham, 1637 Walnut Ave., La Puente CA 91744.

17th Sig. Bn. Assn.—Sept., Tucson—Jim Randall, Box 324, Solomons MD 20688.

20th Armd. Div. Trains, HQ Co.—Sept., Minneapolis—John Keeffe, 164 Woodgate, Paoli PA 19301.

25th Div., 24th Inf. Rgt.—July, Ft. Jackson SC—Taylor Moore, 124 W Lakeside Ave., Columbia SC 29203.

29th Sig. Gp., USA STRATCOM (Bangkok)—September, Las Vegas—Albert Montbleau, 8522 78 Ave N, Seminole FL 34647.

31st Div., 124/154th Inf. Rgts., Svc. Cos. (WWII)—June, Niagara Falls—Joseph W. Wall, 3544 6th Ave, Council Bluffs IA 51501.

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continued from page 55

32nd Div., 107th Engr. Rgt. (WWI, NG)—July, Marquette, MI—Ed Vickstrom, PO Box 390, Ishpeming, MI 49849.

32nd MP Co.—Sept., Arcadia WI—Ignatius Sonsalla, 545 S. Theisen St., Arcadia WI 54612.

34th & 134th Inf. Rgt. & Bns. (WWII)—May, Crescent Springs, KY—Leon Engle, 1049 Laurich Dr., Chambiersburg, PA 17201.

43rd Inf. Div. Assn.—Jan., Orlando FL—William Head, 5725 W. Paul Bryant Dr., Crystal River FL 32629.

44th Div., 114th Inf.—June, Sioux Falls SD—Curtis O. Eggers, Rt. 10, Box 74, Sioux Falls SD 57101.

56th Sig. Bn. (WWII)—June, Lancaster, PA—J. Harvey Kleinsmith, 907 Neversink St. Lorane, Reading, PA 19606.

69th Armor (WWII) & 89th Tank Bn. (Korea)—Mike Fowler, 901 Olmstead Rd. #51, Hinesville GA 31313.

70th Inf. Div., 370th Med. Bn., Co. B—May, Bella Vista, AR—Freeman L. Bishop, 312 S 3rd St., Arkansas City, KS.

78th Div.—Feb., Venice FL—Robert Greivell, 1357 Lucaya Ave., Venice FL 34292.

79th Inf. Div., 312th FA Bn., (WWII)—April, Pawleys Island SC—James Chandler, PO Box 533, Georgetown town SC 29442.

81st FA Bn.—Sept., Luxembourg—Belgium—Charles Rowell, 4516 37th N.E., Seattle WA 98105.

81st QM—Sept., Lancaster PA—L.Z. McCoy, RT1, Box 203, Caddo Mills TX 75005.

83rd Ord. Co., HM Tank—Sept., Richmond VA—Garland Eanes, 601 Compton Dr., Colonial Heights VA 23834.

86th Chem. Mortar Bn. Assn.—May, Orlando—John Deasy, 1830 30th Ave., San Francisco CA 94122.

88th Inf. Div.—Sept., Cincinnati—C.W. Waters, PO Box 925, Havertown PA 19083.

97th Div., 387th Inf., Co. F—April, Decatur GA—Woody Woodruff, 978 North Hills Dr., Decatur GA 30033.

97th Inf. Div., 387th Inf. Rgt., HQ & HQ Co.—Sept., Pittsburgh PA—Samuel Winik, 5 Pomona West, Pikesville MD 21208.

97th Inf. Div., Anti-Tank Co., 303rd Inf. Rgt., (WWII)—Feb., West Palm Beach FL—Fred Kempinski, 152 West 13th St., Deer Park NY 11729.

97th Inf. Div., 303rd Inf., Co. D.—June, Denver—Clem Schlosser, Rt. 1, Meadowood, Apt. #2, Darwin MN 55324.

99th Chem. Mortar Bn. & 442nd AA (AW) Bn. (WWII)—Sept., Albuquerque—Alvis Swanson, 1752 Van Court SW, Albuquerque NM 87105

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107th Rgt. Band (NG)—July, Marquette, MI—Ed Vickstrom, PO Box 390, Ishpeming, MI 49849.

112th Engr. (C) Rgt. 2nd Bn. (NG) —July, Marquette, MI—Ed Vickstrom, PO Box 390, Ishpeming, MI 49849.

116th Asst. Hel. Co.—April, St. Louis—Arthur Silacci, 485 W. Sierra, Clovis CA 93612.

147th Inf. Co. M—Sept., Springfield OH—Fred Bejcek, 5910 Sunset Dr., Bedford Hts. OH 44146.

151st Inf. Co. D—June, Indianapolis IN—James R. Stone, RR 2, Box 223, Bloomfield IN 47424.

203rd FA Bn.—1988—Bill Cottingham, RT. 1, Box 307, Big Cabin OK 74332.

229th AAA (S/L)—Sept., San Antonio TX—James McDaniel, 133 Essex Dr., Knoxville TN 37922. 76528.

250th CA Assn.—Sept., San Francisco—Robert Valdez, 188 Harbor Dr., Daly City CA 94014.

254th Engr. (C) Bn. (NG)—July, Marquette MI—Ed Vickstrom, PO Box 390, Ishpeming MI 49849.

278th RCT (Fort Devens, TN)—March, Gatlinburg TN—James Arnett, RT. 16, Knoxville TN 37920.

311th Ord. Depot Co.—September, Wheeling WV—Jack Scott, PO Box 961, Princeton WV 24740.

401st AAA Bn., Btry. C.—June, Montevideo MN—

Robert Bergo, RT. 1, Box 38, Montevideo MN 56265.

460th Engr. Depot Co. (WWII)—April, Hampton VA—G. J. Tarallo, 10111 Ranger Rd., Fairfax VA 22030.

485th QM Refrig. Co.—June, Joplin MO—Louis G. Holland, 3602 Pearl, Joplin MO 64804.

504th MP Bn.—July, Indianapolis—Charles Eling, 1548 West St., Reading OH 45215.

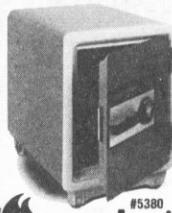
522nd Combat Engr. Co. (NG)—July, Marquette MI—Ed Vickstrom, PO Box 390, Ishpeming MI 49849.

544th Ord. (HM) Co. (WWII)—Aug. Frankenmuth MI—Harry Spender, 5978 W. Millington Rd., Millington MI 48746.

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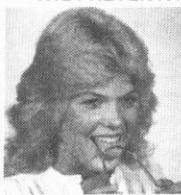
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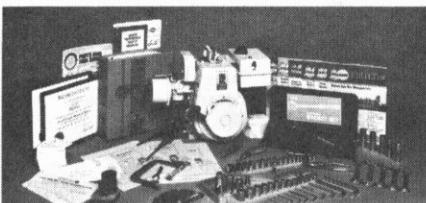
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continued from page 57

593d EB & SR, HQ, A, B Cos. & Medics (WWII)—September, Monterey CA—John McGrath, 3502 Fern Lea Rd., Shively KY 40216.

607th Grave Registration Co. (WWII)—May, Collinsville IL—John D. Little, Box 63, Kingston AR 72742.

631st TD Bn.—August, Mt. Horeb WI—William Wittwer, 314 East Main St., Mt. Horeb WI 53572.

655th TD Bn. (WWII)—May, Kissimmee FL—Frank Arieta, 114 W. Catawissa St., Nesquehoning PA 18240.

645th TD Bn.—April, Tulsa OK—T.J. Hunker, Box 127, Wheatland OK 73097.

650th Engr. Topo. Bn.—Oct., Savannah GA—Frank Captain, 57 Guyon Ave., Staten Island NY 10306.

692d FA Bn., Btry. B & HQ—Sept., Davenport IA—Vern Theede, 2416 E. Pleasant St., Davenport IA 52800.

692d TD Bn., Co. A—May, Williamsburg VA—Joseph Kolenda, 17 Opal Dr., Dearborn MI 48126.

748th Engr. Base Equipment Co.—June, St. Louis MO—James Martin, 5945 Fenwood Dr., Zachary LA 70791.

749th ROB—July, Valley Forge PA—Donald Gothard, 4173 Dixie Ct., Columbus OH 43228.

776th TD Bn.—July, Minot N.D.—Mel Heere, 1816 11th St. S.W., Minot ND 58701.

782d Tank Bn. (WWII)—June, Pine Bluff AR—William C. Coker, 4401 Union Ave., Pine Bluff AR 71603.

787th Tank Bn., Co. B—Aug., Louisville KY—Bob Gunning, 1272 Driftwood Dr., Lowell IN 46356.

798th MP Bn. (WWII)—May, Campbellsville KY—Aaron Pyles, 108 Southside Dr., Campbellsville KY 42718.

871st AB Engr. Bn.—April, Irving TX—Wilson Boatman, RT. 3, Box 174, Garrison, TX 75946.

889th Ham Co. (WWII)—February, Clarksdale MS—Nat Okun, 238 Yazoo Ave., Clarksdale, MS.

904th FA Bn., 79th Inf. Div.—July, San Antonio, TX—Sotero Gomez, 2515 Jackson Dr., Gatesville TX 76528.

925th AAA (AW) Bn., Btry. B—John Fitzsimons, 1517 So. Blackhawk Dr., Schaumburg IL 60193.

961st FA Bn. (WWII)—May, Nashville—Melvin T. Coffin, Rt. 2, Box 200, Waukomis OK 73773.

974th & 975th FA Bns.—June, Winthrop MN—Les Weber, PO Box 495, Winthrop MN 55396.

1135th QM Co. (AVN) (WWII)—March, Milwaukee WI—Phillip Blake, 8035 W. Gertrude Dr., Milwaukee WI 53218.

3207th QM Svc. Co. (WWII)—August, Kansas City MO—Charles S. Jokerst, 501 Taylor Ave., Crystal City MO 63019.

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Ft. Richardson, Alaska, 1941-1945—Oct., St. Louis—Adrian Ingersoll, 244 Ohio, East Alton IL 62024.

Normoyle Ord. Depot—May, Lafayette LA—Jack Tracy, 13300 Indian Rocks Rd. #804, Largo FL 33544.

US Army Med. Cmd., Japan (Camp Zama)—June, Denver—John R. Smith, 14965 E. Security Pl., Aurora CO 80011.

COAST GUARD

USCGC Bramble (W-392) (Plank Owners & WWII Shipmates)—Edward V. Obelens, 319 East St., Fairport Harbor OH 44077.

USS LST 786 (Aug. 1944-Jan. 1946)—March, Myrtle Beach SC—Edward Barth, 7 Stark Dr., E. Granby CT 06026.

USS Poole (DE-151)—August—Donald Macchia, 256 Spruce Street, Bloomfield NJ 07003.

MARINES

1st Mar. Rgt., 1st Bn., Co. D (WWII)—May, Toledo OH—Charles W. Herbster, Rt. 3, Box 222, Coopersburg PA 18036.

1st Mar. Div., 11th Marines, 1 Bn., HQ (Korea, May 1952-May 1953)—June, Mapleton IA—Glen Callaghan, 112 N. 8th St., Mapleton IA 51034.

2nd Mar. Div., 1st Mar. Brigade, 6th Rgt. (Iceland, 1941-42)—June—H.J. Dupont, 4008 Donald St., Port Arthur TX 77640.

3rd Mar. Div., 3rd Bn. (Vietnam)—July, FL—John Mick, 1638 SW Coral Reef, Sebastian FL 32958.

3rd Mar. Div. Assn.—July, Tampa FL—John McLynn, 2121 Skyview Glen, Escondido CA 92027.

5th Amphib. Corps Med. Bn.—September, Bellevue NE—Laddie J. Vacek, 707 Bellevue Blvd., N., Bellevue NE 68005.

5th Mar. Div., 27th Marines, 1st Bn., HQ Co., 81mm Pltn.—May, Batesville AR—Everette Ramsey, Sr., 1260 E. Main St., Batesville AR 72501.

9th Defense & 9th AAA Bn.'s (WWII)—Feb., Albany NY—William Sorensen, 283 First Ave., Stratford CT 06497.

27th Marines, I Co. (Viet Nam 1968)—August, Lancaster OH—Merle Thomas, 1733 Summer, Grinnell IA 50112-1263.

HMM-265—June, Pensacola FL—Dave Boatwright, Rt. 1, Box 299W, Chiefland FL 32626.

continued on page 60



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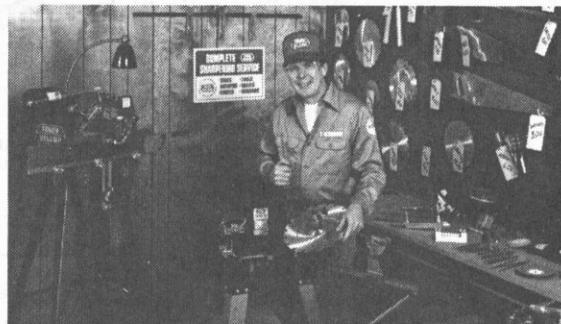
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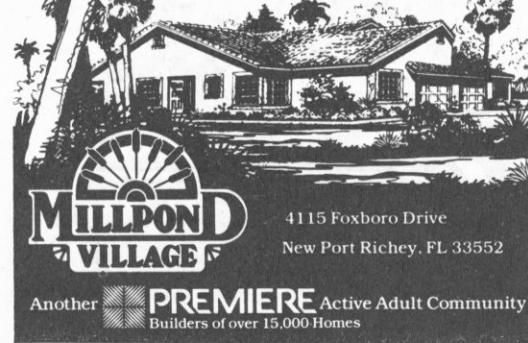
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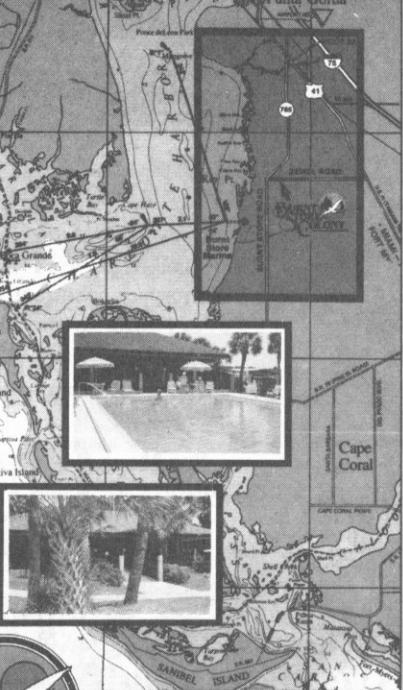
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REUNIONS

continued from page 61

USS Leon (APA-48)—May, Mystic CT—Sam Seidel, PO Box 108, Salisbury MD 21801.

USS LSM-247—June, Vincennes IN—Pervis Carpenter, 608 Bonvue St., Lake Charles LA 70605.

USS LST 640—June, Virginia Beach VA—Ray Bowers, 115 Rohrer, Osawatomie KS 66064.

USS LST 1024—May, Philadelphia—C. Lee White, 305 Virginia Ave., Crystal City MO 63019.

USS Luce (DD-522)—May, Baton Rouge—Richard Flaum, 2042 E. 63rd St., Brooklyn NY 11234.

USS Lyman K. Swenson (DD-729)—Feb., CA—Bob Davis, 9451 Hyannis Port Dr., Huntington Beach CA 92646.

USS Manatee (AD-58)—April, Winter Haven FL—George W. Fisher, 27 Scrub Oak's Rd., Mine Hill, Dover NJ 07801.

USS Melvin (DD-680)—July, Wilmington NC—Henry Rosypal, 316 E. Vine, Millville NJ 08332.

USS Milwaukee (CL-5)—April, Clearwater FL—Albert Hensley, 29 Roman Ave., Staten Island NY 10314.

USS Monterey (CVL-26)—April, Winter Haven FL—George W. Fisher, 27 Scrub Oak's Rd., Mine Hill, Dover NJ 07801.

USS Morrison (DD-560)—May, Baton Rouge—John W. Schurmeier, 8291 Grange Blvd. So., Cottage Grove MN 55016.

USS Mount Katmai (AE-16)—July, Irvine CA—Mickey Ganitch, 15608 Cranbrook St., San Leandro CA 94579.

USS Paul Hamilton (DD-590) & USS Twiggs (DD-591)—Oct., Charleston SC—Bill McCrean, 105 Msgr. Lydon Way, Dorchester MA 02124.

USS PC-793 Association—June, Las Vegas—Joseph O. Wilkinson, 461 Lawrence Switch Road, Route 4, Jackson TN 38305.

USS Perch (SS-176 & SS-313)—Aug., Milwaukee—Tom Grandinett, 188 Minna St., Brooklyn NY 11218.

USS Philippine Sea (CG-58)—Feb.—Chuck Davis, PO Box 597, Levittown PA 19057.

USS President Monroe (AP-104)—August, Omaha—James J. Dever, 2614 E. 6th, Casper WY 82609.

USS Princeton Assn. (CVL-23/CV-37/LPH-5)—Long Beach CA—USS Princeton Assn., PO Box 322, Salina Station, Syracuse NY 13208-0322.

USS Stevenson (DD-645)—Raymond A. Walton, 12271 - 137th St. N., Largo FL 34644.

USS Stormes (DD-780)—Battle Creek MI—Raymond Didur, Sr., PO Box 282, Cement City MI 49233-0282.

USS Sweare (DE-186)—April, Winter Haven FL—Walter Roberge, 2100 Hwy. 92 West, Winter Haven FL 33881.

USS Thompson (DMS-38)—Frank Sause, 77 Cardinal Rd., Hyde Park NY 12538.

USS Torrance—May, Louisville KY—Thomas L. Britt, Jr., 168 Cherokee Dr., Greenwood SC 29646.

USS Tringa (ASR-16)—April, Kissimmee FL—Charlie Carrigan, 1625 Ariana St., Box 49, Lakeland FL 33803.

USS Umpqua (ATA-209)—July, Westminster MD—Jerry Bitzel, 101 N. Court St., Westminster MD 21157.

USS Vogelgesang (DD-862)—Battle Creek MI—Raymond Didur, Sr., PO Box 282, Cement City MI 49233-0282.

USS Warrington (DD-843)—Battle Creek MI—Raymond Didur, Sr., PO Box 282, Cement City MI 49233-0282.

USS Wasp (CVA-18), (A & B Divs., 1953-56)—Dick Sanner, 9218 Bloomington Ave. S., Bloomington MN 55420.

USS Wharton Associates (AP-7)—April, San Antonio—George Howlett, 110 Central Ave., Malden MA 02148.

USS William C. Lawe (DD-763)—May, Boston—Owen Turner, 14 Gordon Terr., Newton MA 02158.

USS Witter (DE-636)—1988—Jack Spitsen, 5621 S. 83rd E. Ave., Tulsa OK 74145.

USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN-624) Commissioning crew—Oct., Charleston SC—Bob Bailey, 504 Martin's Creek Blvd., Summerville SC 29483.

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USS Zane (D-337/DMS-14/AG-109)—May, Tampa — Colie Gruber, 5115 Gateway Dr., Tampa FL 33612.
VP-14, VP-26 & VP-45—June, San Diego—Alfred Perucci, 1655 Primera St., Lemon Grove CA 92045.

SEEKING

The Seeking column is published on a first-come first-served basis. Submission forms are available from VFW Magazine, Seeking, 406 W. 34 St., Kansas City MO 64111.

LST 791—Reunion 1987?—Clarence Blair, 19 Larson Ln., Stoneham MA 02180.

USS SC-1341, WWII—Reunion?—John Mazzullo, 6005 Marlin Ln., Camp Springs MD 20748.

H.W. Gilmore Memorial Assn., (WWII)—Seeking all shipmates—William MacLagan, 34832 N. Oakwood Ave., Waukegan IL 60085.

30th BG—Seeking Richard Sneed for reunion in Oct.—William Bernheim, Box 104, Bangor CA 95914.

336th Engr. Combat Bn.—Seeking former members—George Woodbridge, 107 Conrad NE, Grand Rapids MI 49505.

USS Fiske (DD-842)—Reunion?—Joseph Coffman, 696 Lemon Grove Ave., Ventura CA 93003.

Vietnam Vets. Motorcycle Club—Seeking members with information on how to join club—Robert Lampe, 331 E. Pine, Othello WA 99344.

USS LST-462, (WWII)—Reunion?—C.G. Church, RT. 1, Box 68, Warsaw MO 65355.

25th Inf. Div., 8th FA, (Korea, 1950-53)—Reunion?—Allen Smith, 3338 Dupont, Minneapolis MN 55412.

3rd Div., 7th Rgt., Co. M., (Korea, 1951)—Seeking all former members, especially Sgt. Landry—Don Maher, 4129 Nebraska, St. Louis MO 63118.

852nd Engrs. HQ & Svc., (Germany, France & Belgium, 1943-45)—Seeking John Shultz, Clyde Stone & Vernon Anderson—Fred Edwards, 246 Geissler Rd., Montesano WA 98563.

7th Div., 17th Inf. Rgt., Co. A., (Korea)—Seeking all former members—Robert Cayo, 35 Arapaho Trail, Naples FL 33962.

501st AAA Gun Bn., Btry. B—Seeking anyone from unit—Albeno Marsiglio, 42511 Eldon Circle, Mt. Clemens MI 48044.

CBMU 545, (New Guinea)—Seeking all former members—Marion Wine, 26 Withey St. SW, Grand Rapids MI 49507.

91st Inf. Div., 91st Recon. Trp.—Seeking Horace Brigham & Zeb Ham—Robert Olson, HCR 77, Pine River MN 56474.

8th Armored Div., 7th Armored Inf. Bn., Co. A—Seeking former members of Co. A—William Bopp, 57 West Gradwell Ave., Maple Shade NJ 08052.

40th Inf. Div., 223rd Inf. Rgt., (Korea, 6/50-7/54)—Seeking Gudalupa Vega & Thomas Dupuis—Kenneth Toal, 3298 Buffalo St., Alexander NY 14005-0093.

516th QM Rgt., Co. A., (WWII)—Seeking Joel Anderson, James Clark, Michael Duco, Wallace Lee & Leo Powell—George Thornton, 2010 S. Bunn, Bloomington IL 61701.

35th Station Hosp., (formerly 364th Station Hosp., Kyoto, Japan)—Seeking Vernon Hanns & Barney Werksman—Billy Marsh, 2922 Sussex Rd., Augusta GA 30809.

465th FA Bn., Btry. A—Seeking former members to compile roster—Duane Tressler, RD1, Box 168, Salisbury PA 15558.

3576th QM Truck Co., (WWII)—Seeking former members—George Vitzthom, RFD, Whittemore IA 50598.

North Africa, Port Lyautay, French Morocco, Navy 214, (1947-49)—Seeking C.P.O.'s: Fuller, Brown, Aott, Nebblet & Desrosiers—Lawrence Ingram, PO Box 9483, Ft. Worth TX 76107.

USS Laffey (DD-459), (WWII)—Seeking Lawrence E. Moore & W.D. Long—Robert Parrish, RT 2, Box 732, Gravois Mills MO 65037.

CASU4, (Maui, 1944-45)—Seeking Eugene M. Shumway—Bob Johnston, Star RT. Box 14, Latrobe PA 15650.

67th NCB—Reunion?—S.F. Beissel, 208½ West Lake St., Chisholm MN 55719.

USS F.D. Roosevelt (CVB-42), V-3 Div., (1950-54)—Ed Sewell, 1697 Poles Rd., Baltimore MD 21221.

3rd Mar. Div., 3rd Rgt.—Seeking former members that served in Hawaii & Japan, (1953-54)—Edward Tomek, PO Box 1, Table Rock NE 68447.

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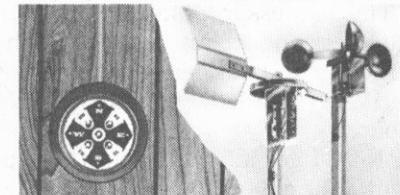
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"The dirty one, naturally," answered a student.

The professor pointed out, "Remember, the clean man sees the dirty one and notices how dirty he is and vice versa. Now, which one takes a bath?"

"Now I get it," answered the student. "The clean chimney sweep sees the dirty one and concludes that he's dirty, too — so he takes a bath. Am I correct?"

"Wrong. Absolutely wrong. Logic teaches you that if two workers go into a chimney, how could one come out clean and one dirty?"

TV or Not TV

Watching TV had become inevitable, so a teacher endeavored to make the most of video to improve the character of her charges by having them point out to her the moral of each program they had watched the evening before.

"What programs did you watch last night?" she asked one first grader.

"It was with Gene Autry. He was riding along on his horse when ten tough hombres came along and jumped him. So he shot six of them right through the head and then because his bullets were all gone, he jumped off and chased the other four and knocked them all out with his fists," the youngster reported.

"And what was the moral of that picture?" the teacher asked.

"The moral was, if you know what's good for you, don't mess with Gene Autry."

Promise

The departing babysitter said to the returning parents, "By the way, I promised Janie that if she went to bed, you'd buy her a pony in the morning."

Nomenclature

A man was standing near a marina admiring the luxurious yachts docked there. The names of the pleasure boats tickled his fancy. They were The Mermaid, Lily Joe, Starbright, and Lolife.

But the one which amused him most was called, quite simply. The \$47,500.

Proof

Two boys were arguing over a coin they had found. Jon, the younger of the two, said, "I know it's a quarter because there's a buzzard on the back of it."

Beats me!

An old lady was looking at an art exhibition. One modern painting brought her to a dead stop.

"What in the world is that supposed to be?" she asked the artist standing nearby.

"That, my dear woman," answered the artist, "is supposed to be a mother with her child."

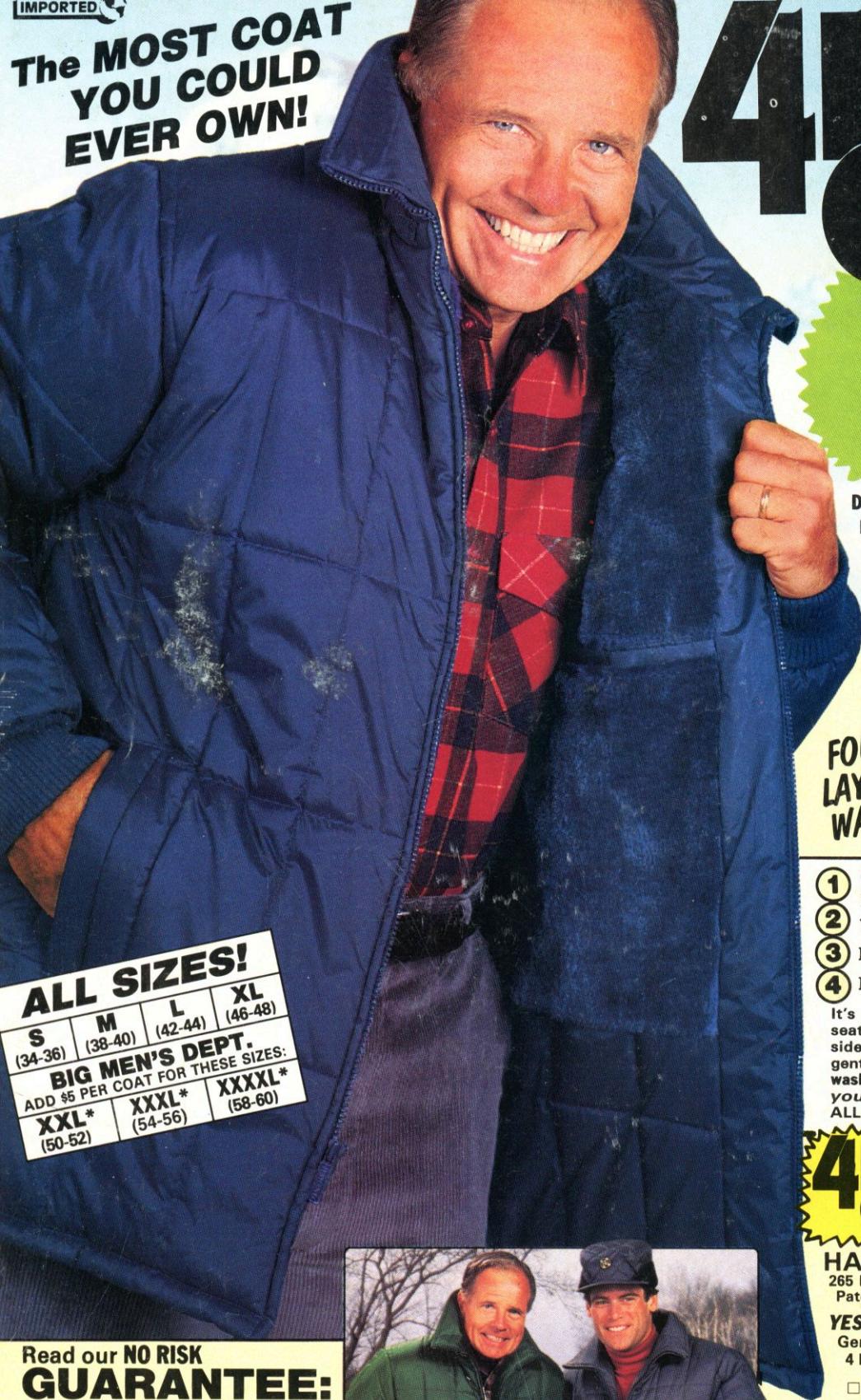
"Well, then," snapped the old lady, "why isn't it?"



*"For cryin' out loud, Constance!
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